



Grass Roots

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Turf talk 2011.3

This time of year, it is easy to put things on autopilot because everything looks so healthy. As you would expect, the cool season grasses are doing very well right now. There should be no supplemental watering necessary as long as we continue to receive the rain in the same amounts. We still have a chance at spring-like weather; however, if you've taken a look at the long-range forecast, you know that temperatures will be hovering in the mid-80's for quite some time. Once we turn the corner into summer (translation: hot with little to no rain) irrigation will become a key component in maintaining your turf. If you have not yet checked your irrigation system, it is a good idea to do so. If you do not have a system, call us for an estimate. Hose-dragging does not burn enough calories to be of benefit as exercise.

We believe vigilance is the order of the day because of how fast things change around here. You are your lawn's first responder when it comes to turf problems just because of the frequency with which you are in your yard. If something about your lawn doesn't look quite right, please give us a call so we can stay on top of things, especially if we are between fertilizer applications.

As for maintaining that beautiful spring lawn, we remind you to keep that mower blade sharp and continue to mow frequently. Each mowing should remove no more than the top 1/3 of the grass plant. Don't bag the clippings. Leaving the grass clippings provides valuable nutrients for the turf.

If you ever want more information about any turf-related subject, or if there is a topic near and dear to your heart, email us or give us a call. We will try to get the latest information to you in a timely fashion through our website, our blog, and the newsletter.



The Rain Gauge

For a normal month of June, your turf should receive approximately 1 - 1.5 inches of precipitation per week. Precipitation per week is the combined amount of Mother Nature's rain plus anything you add to it. Excessive watering will only waste water and promote unhealthy growing conditions in a variety of ways.

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One size fits all? Not at CM's

Properties come in all shapes and sizes and CM's is equipped to handle landscape projects regardless of the size. Each custom design reflects the needs and desires of a client for their space, be it for family gatherings, quiet reflection, outdoor cooking or any combination of activities. Is your patio ready for a makeover?

Before



A simple concrete pad becomes an elegant entertainment area with space for cooking, dining and relaxing.



After

Before



After



Pavers give this patio a sophisticated look. The pondless waterfall adds interest and provides relaxing sounds – perfect after a long day at the office.

On our blog...

... at www.cmcustomlawn.com

◇ Rachael and Tobias discuss the importance of pinching plants.

Did you read last month's blogs on dividing ornamental grasses and the turf care overview?



Reminders

1. Plant spring annuals
2. Prune flowering shrubs.
3. Inspect irrigation systems.

Versatile annuals fill containers, landscape beds with color



The perfect landscape balances elements. The careful placement of plants and hardscape materials takes advantage of what Mother Nature provides while adding dimension and interest. Perennials are always a favorite due to their reliability and consistency. Each year, they can be counted on to appear on schedule with little assistance. Annuals, on the other hand, are all about the show. Sometimes a bit needy, they provide that beautiful pop of color to any landscape.

Annuals are perfect for container gardens as well as landscape beds. There are varieties suited for any light condition from full sun to full shade. They require a bit more attention with respect to care but are always worth the effort.

CM's can find just the right combination of annuals for your landscape. Give us a call and we'll help you with your seasonal planting needs.



Summertime: s'more fun cooking outdoors

What's not to love about a cook out? Burgers, brats, corn on the cob are all better on a grill, to say nothing of the fact that toasting marshmallows and making s'mores are sure signs that summer entertaining is in full swing. Is your outdoor kitchen fired up and ready to go?



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