



Grass Roots

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Turf talk 2011.2

What can you say about a spring that has yet to arrive? Sure the grass is green, there are buds on the trees and shrubs, and birds are making nests at the angle of the house and downspout (I have three trees in my yard; you think they could find one of them). The temperatures, on the other hand, are hardly something in which you can revel. You are probably wondering where I am going with this. The cool season grasses - Kentucky blue, the fescue and rye - thrive in the cooler seasons of the year, typically now into June and again in the fall. I encourage you to enjoy the experience. I also urge you to be thinking about those months in between when heat and humidity take the measure of these same grasses. Last season's experience led us to rethink our typical advice on dealing with fungus in turf.

While we can't control temperature and humidity, we can do some things to minimize their effect on your turf. Healthy, dense turf withstands most adverse occurrences better than turf that is not so healthy. That is always the first thing we aim for. If you have a lawn that is on the thin side, overseeding is a must until it thickens up.

A well-aerated turf resists disease better. We recommend aerating twice a year.

Pay attention to irrigation amounts and timing. Right now, we are getting more than adequate moisture for turf. As the seasons change, so do rainfall amounts; there is a tendency to overwater. There is no hard and fast rule as to the number of times per week or the number of minutes per zone. It is all about how your turf absorbs the water at the root zone.

For the rest of this feature, please go to our blog. There you'll find additional information on irrigation, mowing, and important new information on fungicides. Just go to our website, cmcustomlawn.com. The link to our blog is right on the homepage.

Follow the yellow brick road ...

Well, maybe not exactly, but a new paver pathway, driveway or patio is sure to do wonders to invigorate a tired landscape.

CM's A Cut Above can do wonders with any space, regardless of the size. Our award-winning team will remove your existing surface and replace it with durable materials that will give you years of satisfaction.



Meandering flagstone paths are invitations to stop and smell the roses. Pavers come in a number of hues and sizes which can be installed in a variety of patterns. Patios, driveways and walks become functional and beautiful surfaces.



Before



After



Give your home a distinctive look. Call CM's today to learn how to transform your home from ho-hum to OOH-AAH!



The Rain Gauge

For a normal month of May, your turf should receive approximately one-half inch 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.

On our blog...

... at www.cmcustomlawn.com

- ◊ Read Chuck, Sr.'s Turf Talk 2011.2 in its entirety.
- ◊ Learn about dandelion control.

Coming later this month:

- ◊ Rachael and Tobias tackle splitting ornamental grasses



Reminders

1. Plant spring annuals
2. Schedule sprinkler turn-on service.
3. Take inventory of garden tools, hoses and watering devices. Repair or replace equipment as necessary,
4. Celebrate May by investing in a new pair of gardening gloves.

To plant or not to plant. That is the question.

Our apologies to the Bard, but we want to address a few common questions about the planting season.

I'm dying to dig in the dirt. When can I start planting?

The old adage about not planting before Mothers' Day holds true. This year's frost-free date for the Omaha area is May 9.

How do I know if my lawn or plants need water?

Use a screw driver to test the moisture level of the ground. If you reach dry soil at or near the three-inch level, it is time for water. Shrubs and trees need water if the soil is dry at or near six inches. Remember: container gardens need daily attention to keep them vibrant all season long.

Do I really need to fertilize and mulch my landscape beds?

We strongly recommend both. Fertilizer gives plants much-needed nutrition for healthy and long seasons and mulch is a gardeners best friend. It prohibits weed growth and helps maintain soil moisture and temperature levels, in addition to adding organic nutrients to the soil as it breaks down and decomposes.

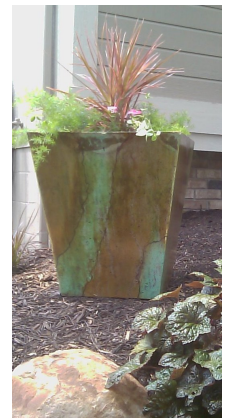
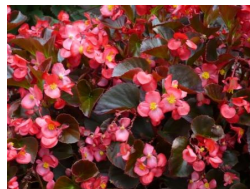


Look no further! We have perfect gifts for Mothers' Day

Are you looking for that perfect Mothers Day gift? CM's can help! We offer container gardens in all sizes and will work with you to produce a garden that is sure to please.

We have a variety of concrete pots available on site, as well as access to beautiful pots from premier vendors in assorted sizes and colors. Tell us the colors and size you have in mind and we'll select for you. Or, if Mom has a favorite container you'd like to fill, let us know. You can bring it to us or we can plant it on site for you.

Not sure what to choose? A gift certificate is always a great idea. Call us today.



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