



Grass Roots

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Turf talk 2011.6

We have seen some turf recovery with the break in the high heat/humidity. We would expect that improvement to continue as the temperatures moderate further. Aeration and overseedings are underway; if you have not scheduled yours, it is time to do so. We also began our fourth round of fertilizer applications.

We attended the Nebraska Turfgrass Association's annual field day held at the John Seaton Anderson Turfgrass Research Facility, Mead, Nebraska. The University's research and teaching role in turf management is known throughout the country, but we often think that it is a well-kept secret in Nebraska. Their research covers all grasses that grow in our state. They evaluate different cultivars for drought and disease resistance, traffic tolerance, water usage, nutrient needs, and the like. They further study the efficacy of herbicides and fungicides, the ones we use on your lawns. Their research is often available on line (<http://turf.unl.edu>), along with other helpful hints for homeowners and professionals alike.

One of the topics covered this year at Mead was the problem of late outbreaks of crabgrass, a persistent problem over the last four years. The discussion focused on whether or not a third pre-emergent application might help with the problem if we can all decide the best time to apply it. We would all be happier if we could at least control the problem through July. We are currently spraying what we find.

Another topic included deficit irrigation, something we will all hear more about as water resources become increasingly scarce. Water is a key factor in most of our lawn care issues - not enough, too much, wrong time of day, compromised delivery systems, lay-of-the-land issues like slopes, sun fields, and dense shade.

We are keenly aware of your desire for more easily understood answers to turf issues. It is an on-going challenge for us when there is seldom one strategy that is an all-inclusive solution to the problems we uncover. That said, we will continue learning and sharing what we learn to achieve our common goals.

Untangle lights? Climb ladders? Forget it! Bask in the glow of holiday lighting courtesy of CM's

Ahh, September. School's back in session, football season begins and stores are filled with Christmas decorations. What? Yes, it's true. The holiday season starts early.

At CM's, we're in holiday mode. Now is the time to plan those outdoor lighting displays and schedule the installation to ensure you are ready to flip the switch in November.

Whether you are considering outlining your home, decorating your trees or including an animated array, CM's is your holiday lighting contractor. We offer state-of-the art designs, installation and removal for residential and commercial properties.

Installation begins in October and our schedule will fill quickly. You don't want to be left out in the cold - literally - on this deal. Call us today to schedule a design appointment or your installation.



In a shameless bit of self promotion, CM's is proud to announce its participation in the 2012 Best of Omaha competition.

Voting ends September 30, so there is still time for you to select CM's A Cut Above as the Best Landscape, Irrigation and Lawn Care company in Omaha. Yep, that's right, you can (and we hope you do) vote for us in three different categories!

Simply go to our website and click on the Best of Omaha voting link and cast your vote.



Reminders

1. Schedule turf renovation or aeration & overseeding.
2. Schedule fall clean-up
3. Schedule fall bulb planting
4. Schedule holiday lighting installation.



The Rain Gauge

For a normal month of September, your turf should receive approximately 1.0 - 1.25 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.

2011 Operation Shining Salute

Brighten the home and hearts of an active-duty military family this season by nominating them for Operation Shining Salute.

CM's is proud to sponsor this program for the second year. It is open to any family in the Omaha metropolitan area who is, or will be, deployed to the Middle East for a minimum of 180 days, or who has returned from deployment to the Middle East since December 1, 2010.

Simply go to our [website](#) to read the rules and to complete the nomination form. (You can also secure a copy of the rules and a nomination form by sending a SASE to our office.) HURRY! All nominations must be received by September 26. Three to five families will be selected from all eligible nominees for on-line voting in October. The winning family will receive an exterior holiday lighting display valued at \$5000 from CM's.

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize families making such great personal sacrifice. Spread some joy during the holidays. Nominate a family and remember to participate in the October voting.



Fire features add charm, warmth to patios



Fend off the chill of the autumn nights with a fire feature. Beautiful anytime of day, gas-fired pits are perfect gathering spots after the game or for relaxing with a cup of hot chocolate. Updating your outdoor living space? Consider a fire feature from CM's.



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