



Grass Roots

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Spring turf news

Winter is over-unless it snows again. Be that as it may, we are making that transition to spring. We are already out re-mulching beds and doing clean-ups in some yards. Our



first round of fertilizer applications will begin the week of April 5th. Here are some things to keep in mind. Spring is a great time to aerate. We continue to believe in the value of multiple aerations during the year, with spring and fall being the most obvious times. If you are not on the spring schedule already, please call the office so you do not miss this opportunity to help your lawn.

We had a fair amount of snow this year; and depending on where you put your snow, some areas of the turf may experience winter damage. If you see areas of the turf that appear to be a little off their normal winter shades of dormancy, a light raking can help. Most of the time, these areas recover nicely.

We would prefer that you do any yard clean-up before our first application. While it is not essential, we believe that we get better overall results if clean-ups precede that first application.

The first application will be a pre-emergent with fertilizer. We try to time this application to the emergence of certain weeds. The pre-emergent chemical then attacks the roots and shoots of these weeds to maintain control. **IF YOU ARE DOING ANY SEEDING ON YOUR OWN, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THE CHEMICAL WILL ACT THE SAME WAY ON NEW GRASS SHOOTS AND ROOTS AS IT DOES ON WEEDS.** We will apply a different product if you are seeding and you tell us.

Most importantly, we are happy to see you again. Please call us with any questions you may have. Your satisfaction is what keeps us in business.



Reminders

1. Schedule sprinkler turn-on service.
2. Sharpen mower blades.
3. Spring mowing height: 2.75 - 3.25 inches.

Low Impact Development: Rain Gardens

In the past few issues, we've discussed different aspects of Low Impact Development (LID) and the impact they have on our environment. This month, we focus on Rain Gardens.

Just what is a rain garden? Simply put, it is a level, low area landscaped with native perennials and grasses that allows rainwater to infiltrate the soil while leaving behind harmful pollutants.

Rain gardens can be incorporated into any landscape but are especially beneficial where natural or man-made slopes occur in a terrain. These slopes, left unchecked, channel water runoff into streets, sewers and, ultimately, our water system. Properly installed water gardens use this runoff to irrigate and sustain suitable plants, grasses and trees. Additionally, rain gardens help minimize water quality issues.



Purple Dome Aster



Big Blue Stem

Shown here are just a few of the many plants and grasses that will prosper in a rain garden. Plant selection will vary given criteria such as the amount of daily sunlight, the space available for the garden and, of course, homeowner preferences.

The benefits of rain gardens are many. In addition to their environmental impact, they add beautiful color and varied textures to a landscape. They eliminate the time and expense spent on turf maintenance. They provide a natural habitat for butterflies and other beneficial insects giving homeowners hours of enjoyment.



Stella d'Oro Day Lily

So, how do you get started? Your rain garden is as near as your telephone. Call CM's today to talk to one of our designers about adding a rain garden to your landscape. We are here to answer any of your questions about low impact development and how you can include it in your existing landscape or as part of a new landscape design.



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Home show is a spectacular success

March 26-29 found several members of the CM's team at the Omaha Home & Builders' Show at the Qwest Center. More than 500 people visited our booth which was filled with LID elements, custom-crafted concrete surfaces, unique pergolas and much more. For those of you who were unable to attend, we thought you might enjoy seeing photos of our exhibit. Special thanks to our coworkers who designed, built and staffed the exhibit: Jeff Bothwell, Tim Bowman, Matt Bryan, Bobby Byers, Dave Churchich, Rick Dostal, Javier Garcia, Pat Jacobson, Michael Ryan Kruger, Jose Marentes, Christine Monico, Chuck Monico, Paul Newburn, Jason Parks, Kent Papstein, Andy Szatko, Jeff Yost and Dan Zoucha.



Pondless waterfall



Green roof pergola

Hardscape materials make your landscape the jewel of the neighborhood



Before



After



The addition of beautiful, strategically-placed hardscape materials controls erosion and adds interest to this property. Spring is a perfect time to make some changes to your landscape—a boulder here, some flagstone there, lush plants and a topping of rich mulch to prevent weeds and retain moisture. Our yard is open. Call us today about your spring hardscape needs.