



Grass Roots

A new patio equals hours of enjoyment

Summer is just around the corner. What better way to entertain or just relax than with a new and improved patio? CM's Custom Lawn & Landscape can design



and install a beautiful outdoor space to meet your specific needs. Many of the hard goods incorporated in your design come from our own yard, making it easy for you to select just the right materials, colors, shapes and sizes to make your space the retreat you so richly deserve.



Why wait? Make the call. You'll be so glad you did!

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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.



Healthy spring turf - more than just luck

This issue always catches us doing parts of both pre-emergent applications. As we transition to warmer weather there are some instructions that never change. So if what we say sounds the same, it is. If research and practices change, you will be among the first to know.

Let's start with **irrigation**. It has been a dry spring. Testing soil moisture is as simple as the old screwdriver test: stick it in the ground; if the soil is moist down to three to four inches, you are probably okay. As with all statistics, the bigger the sample, the more reliable are the result. Unless your yard is uniform in slope and coverage areas, test throughout the yard. We still believe in infrequent, deep watering this time of year. Deep is not a measure of time but of the turf's ability to absorb the water. To avoid run-off, it is sometimes better to water in two shorter back-to-back cycles the same day. That programmable clock that runs your system is a great help in conserving water. If you need help, call us.

Aeration is one way to improve absorption. Twice a year is the norm for us. It will improve your lawn's ability to withstand disease and other stress. Previous industry practices were that aeration preceded pre-emergent applications. Now, research indicates it really does not matter all that much. So, get that turf aerated.



We will **spray weeds** as we see them when we fertilize. Somewhere in the first round of applications, it gets warm enough to spray. Once again, the best defense against weeds is a healthy stand of grass. How do we get there? Think triple play: Nutrients (our job); Irrigation (you or Mother Nature); Mowing (your choice.)

While I am speaking of things that do not look good in your yard, if you have nutsedge and have not asked us to take care of it, please call. While it is difficult to control, ignoring it will not make it go away.

This brings us to **mowing**, and it bears repeating: sharp blades are essential. We also like you to vary the mowing patterns, and avoid mowing circles around trees, if at all possible. The ruts are unsightly, susceptible to weeds and result in unhealthy turf.

A note from the office....

As a reminder, our correct mailing address is the same as our physical address: 4151 S. 84 St. We continue to receive mail addressed to our old post office box. Please remember to update our address and share the new address with any banks or other third-party bill paying services with whom you do business.

Thank you!



Reminders

1. Plant spring annuals.
2. Schedule irrigation system inspection.
3. Sign up for electronic newsletter at www.cmcustomlawn.com
4. While on the site, check out the blog.



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Low Impact Development: Rainwater harvesting

Rainwater harvesting is one more aspect of low impact development that we expect will grow in popularity as more people look for ways to conserve.

Harvesting is a simple way to make better use of rainwater. A combination of collected rainwater and municipal water can meet many irrigation needs while making significant improvements to the environment.

The end-use of the collected water will dictate the size and sophistication of the system. It can be a simple collection barrel or a containment system with filtering and pumping capabilities.

Andy Szatko has posted an article on rainwater harvesting on our blog. Please go to <http://cmscustomlawn.blogspot.com> to learn more.



Transitions...

We do our best to keep you informed about goings-on in the company. Chuck Sr., who heads up our chemical division and has been fertilizing many of your lawns since 1995, recently had a cancerous kidney removed. It became apparent that the recovery time would prevent him from getting back out into the field as soon as he would like. We also realized that he was not going to fertilize lawns forever, so we are taking this opportunity to use his talents in other areas of our company as well. He will continue to manage the chemical division, including personnel training, product selection, on-site inspections and other service calls, sales, and whatever else is needed to continue to provide the level of service you have come to expect from us. He will continue to be available by phone, and he hopes to see more of you even as his role changes.

One of the reasons you choose to work with us is the depth of experience of our employees. So if you see an unfamiliar face in your yard, or a different applicator's name on a fertilizer invoice, rest assured that they come with our same commitment to quality. As always, if you have any questions about your landscape, whether about turf, plants, trees or shrubs, we are here to help you. Please call us or contact us through our website.