



Grass Roots

www.cmcustomlawn.com

4151 S. 84 St. Omaha, NE 68127 402.738.1718

Volume 2009 Issue 7

Turf Care Update

The end of June finds the Omaha area running one to two inches above normal precipitation levels. Most lawns are doing well with only Mother Nature's irrigation plan. July can be an entirely different story. Continue to monitor your lawn for signs of heat stress and use water wisely - water early in the morning; avoid excessive run-off; syringe on very hot days in the late afternoon to cool the turf canopy.

We have just begun our third round of applications. As you may recall, this is our preventive treatment for grubs. We are using Mach II this year. Water the product in thoroughly for best results.



Clover

We are seeing more clover this year; and as long as the temperatures are reasonable, we will spray it as we see it. Nutsedge also appeared earlier than it has in the past several years. For those of you who have requested that we treat it, I think we will achieve very good control because it came so early. If you have not told us to treat it, please do so. It is invasive and detracts from your lawn's appearance.



Nutsedge

Mowing reminders:

- *Allow the turf to dry before mowing, if possible
- *Keep the blade sharp
- *3.5 inches is a good length to maintain for cool season grasses
- *Never take more than one third of the crown at any one mowing
- *Mulch, don't bag (even more attractive if Omaha

does away with yard waste collections).

If you have questions or suggestions, please give us a call. The best calls we receive are those from your friends and neighbors who want to join the list of satisfied customers. We want to exceed your expectations so that list continues to grow.

Turf Renovation and Irrigation

Many of you will be looking for ways to improve the health and look of your lawn this fall by either overseeding or sodding. Fall is the most popular time to renovate damaged turf areas due to cooling temperatures and more stable temperatures. If you are like many of us, you have a full schedule that makes it difficult to water the seed or sod. Maybe you can only water the seed once a day or every other day. What happens when seed dries out even once before germination? The rule of thumb is that every time seed dries out before germination half of the seed will not germinate. Putting this into dollars means that if you spend \$1000 on a lawn renovation and let the seed dry out once you have thrown away \$500. If you let it dry out again you have thrown away another \$250, one more time and another \$125 is gone. If sod is your preference for renovation then you will need to water for 14 – 21 days at least 2 times per day.



A sure way to know you will be able to water you newly renovated turf is to install a sprinkler system. A sprinkler system gives you the flexibility to water when you want, allows you to put the proper amount of water on you lawn every week, doesn't take vacations, is trouble free and comes with a **FIVE-year** parts and labor warranty. How can you beat that?! The sprinkler system is a great idea before the renovation occurs. It will guarantee you that your seed or sod gets the amount of water it needs.

Here are some highlights regarding our sprinkler systems:

- *We use Hunter products, a nationally recognized company who stands behind their products
- *We guarantee 100% turf coverage
- *Install time is usually just one day for most residential lawns
- *You receive a five year parts and labor warranty

As water use becomes more expensive, don't you want to make sure you get the full value of this precious resource? Call us today to install your new system. If you already have a system but would like us to inspect it to ensure the coverage is meeting your turf care needs, please let us know. Our experienced irrigation service technicians can assess your system as well as diagnose and repair any problems they may encounter.

Reminders

1. Schedule fall turf renovation or aeration and overseeding.
2. Schedule irrigation system review.
3. Apply disease and insect spray to trees and shrubs.
4. Sign up for electronic newsletter at www.cmcustomlawn.com

The Rain Gauge



For a normal month of July, your turf should receive approximately 1.5-1.75 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.



Phone: 402.738.1718
Fax: 402.614.2771
E-mail: admin@cmscustomlawn.com

CM's Custom Lawn & Landscape
4151 S. 84 St.
Omaha, NE 68127

PRESRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO 446

Knock Out roses TKO'd

If your Knock Out roses are a bit of a disappointment this year, you are not alone.

According to sources at the Douglas County Extension office, there is significant die-back of these plants this year due to the lack of snow cover last winter. Unless the plant stems are covered with mulch in the fall, there is little to protect them from the harsh climate. Covering the stems with mulched leaves and grass in the fall will help insulate the plants over the winter months. The mulch must be cleaned out in the spring, but well worth the effort.

Some roses are also showing evidence of Japanese Beetles. If you are seeing holes in the leaves of the plants, this is the likely culprit. Dusting weekly with Sevin until the problem disappears is the solution to this pest problem.



FREE TREES!

CM's is conducting a client survey. This short, 7-question survey can be answered on our website or by completing the enclosed form and returning it to our office by July 18. Three lucky clients will each win a tree valued between \$400-500.

To take the survey on line, go to our website's home page and click on the survey link. If you prefer, you can complete the enclosed survey and mail it back to us.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.



ON-LINE PAYMENT

CM's is pleased to announce that you can now review and pay your invoices on-line! All you need to do is go to <https://www.intuitbillpay.com/cmscustomlawn>. This is a secure website where you will have the opportunity to view, print and pay your invoices and monthly statements. Don't forget that you can save these documents in a PDF and store them on your computer! In addition, we would love to send your invoices and statements via email. If you are interested in taking part in this environmentally-friendly exchange, please contact the office or email amonico@cmscustomlawn.com