



Grass Roots

Bug Off!

It was a long, cold winter and we are so excited to get out and enjoy spring. As thrilled as we are with warm weather activities, those pesky ants and spiders are every bit as lively and gaining entrance to our homes.



garden-spiders.com



antlearningzone.com

Get ahead of the game in fighting off these harmless, but annoying, intruders. CM's Custom Lawn & Landscape offers perimeter pest prevention (PPP) service. Our licensed applicators will treat the exterior of

your home - foundations, door ways, windows, eaves and overhangs - where the pests live. Providing an inhospitable environment will discourage the insects from entering your home in search of food.

Call us today to sign up for PPP and evict those creepy crawlers before they set up housekeeping!

Ask us about our Risk-Free Guarantee!

Turf care update

We are rapidly coming to the end of our first application at the time of this writing, and we anticipate starting

round two on or about May 10. Things that we have seen:

Vole damage: One customer saw one as we were talking on the phone about her yard. A mouse trap(s) perpendicular to the run, baited with peanut butter, if they are still active. If you have children or pets, we are going to need to come up with a solution that does not involve mouse traps. There was another non-lethal trapping method that I am having trouble locating. If I find it, I will put it in the blog.

Moles: Activity seems to be increasing in the past few years. Sure-fire control is the bayonet trap or a scissors trap (a good dog or a pitch fork will do the trick also). They are carnivores. They eat earth worms primarily, and grubs when available. Poison pellets, peanuts, and the like will not work. Some people say you can co-exist if you are willing to push down the runs on a daily basis. There are worm-like poison baits that are available. Success varies with identification of active runs and proper bait placement.

Powdery mildew: Individual blades of bluegrass appear grey in color. Take a closer look and you'll find a white, powdery growth found on the upper surface of the leaf. Shaded areas of with low air movement are particularly susceptible, especially when wet weather and low temperatures factor in the equation. The condition will improve as temperatures rise and the turf dries out. Following good cultural practices for irrigation and mowing and pruning trees and shrubs to increase light and air flow will help mitigate the problem.



We have seen some nice recovery from winter damage, often without a great deal of work on the part of homeowners (I did not think it would, but my grass recovered by itself). Healthy turf is pretty resilient. Now, how can we keep it that way? You have entrusted proper nutrient provision to us. We entrust many of you with proper mowing, and all of you with irrigation that does not come in the form of rain. Rainfall, while spotty, has so far proven to be sufficient. Remember the screwdriver test: a three to four inch long blade can tell you how moist the ground is at the root system.

As for weeds, in the yards we have been historically caring for, control is pretty good. Newer customers may require some patience. As most of you know, we will spray with each fertilizer application, using products specific to your individual needs, subject only to temperature requirements.

By all means, **USE YOUR YARDS**. Again, healthy turf recovers from all but severe traffic and compaction. We try to move home plate around the yard, and maybe mulch would be better than grass under what has become some rather elaborate swing sets.

Let's not forget about mowing. Most of you have mowed several times by now. Get that mower deck up high before it gets hot. You will crowd out some weeds and keep things cooler. If you want to adjust your mower as the season moves along, that's fine. If you only feel like making the adjustment once, go to the highest setting. **KEEP THE BLADE SHARP!**

From what we can tell, the new fertilizer routes seem to be working. We will keep trying to improve the level of service you receive.

As always, thanks for allowing us to serve you.



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.



Reminders

1. Plant spring annuals
2. Schedule sprinkler turn-on service.
3. Check out our blog at <http://cmcustomlawn.blogspot.com> for Rachael's DIY tips on container gardening.

DIY -

Rachael's 5 steps to the perfect annual container garden



1. Select a container of appropriate size and that has a drainage hole. Fill with potting soil.
2. Decide where you will place the pot and consider how much sunlight that spot receives.
3. Select annuals that have similar light and moisture requirements.
4. Water regularly. Most annual planters need to be watered at least once per day, especially if they are in a sunny spot.
5. Throughout the season, remove spent blossoms to keep those flowers coming!

For more information on container gardening and Rachael's first DIY article, Starting Plants from Seeds, check out our blog at <http://cmscustomlawn.blogspot.com>.



Get Into the Spring of Things!

Here it is, the first of May, and we are all crazy for Spring now that our long winter has ended! This issue is full of info to help you get those yards and gardens in tip-top shape.

Look for:

- 🌸 Rachael's 5 steps to annual container gardening
- 🌸 Pest Prevention (keep 'em outside where they belong!)
- 🌸 Spring Turf activities, challenges and remedies
- 🌸 The return of the Rain Gauge

Watch those new plants.
Eastern Nebraska's frost-free date is

May 10



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