



Grass Roots

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Heat + humidity = fungus

Fungus again? We continue to explore ways for to deal with this annual occurrence. We talk of cultural practices that homeowners can implement to reduce the incidence and or the severity of the disease. Even the term "disease" is misleading because it makes it sounds if we are dealing with one problem when, in fact, it can be one of several problems. To date we have seen Dollar Spot, Pythium Blight, and Brown Patch.

Cool season grasses - the fescues, rye and bluegrass - do better in spring, early summer, and fall. The heat and high humidity of the summer stresses the cool season grasses to some degree. Added traffic on the lawn does the same. Lawns are more prone to disease under these circumstances. Once the turf is infected, the disease will run its course until the heat and humidity abate.

What about intervention? First of all, please review our Fertilizer web page for the Disease Control information. Following those guidelines, while not a guarantee, will improve your chances of avoiding turf disease dramatically.

There are chemical preventive measures which have worked for some of our customers. They are expensive. Next year's prices will be \$55.00 - \$60.00/ 1000 sq ft., with a 1500 sq ft minimum. There are two applications. The products are not guaranteed by the manufacturer, although we believe we have had reasonable success over the years. We can also treat diseases as they appear, the same price per thousand sq ft treated, with treatments occurring at two to four week intervals for as many as three applications. Most of our customers, when confronted with all the facts, opt to allow the disease to run its course. Most lawns recover completely. We strongly recommend periodic overseeding to introduce newer, more disease-resistant, cultivars into your turf.

We are currently evaluating a granular fungicide as a treatment option. It is less expensive than other products we have used in the past. For those of you who wish to treat the disease, we will try to make it available as soon as we can.



Ho! Ho! Ho! Holiday lights

Even though the thermometer reads in the triple digits, the holiday lighting season is just around the corner. We pride ourselves on being one of the best full service companies in Omaha and we

are partnering with one of the premier installers in the Omaha area to expand our services for you. There are some exciting, new products that will become instant "must-haves" for the Clark Griswold in the neighborhood.

Start thinking about what you want to do with your décor this holiday season, and then have one of our expert staff meet with you to design your dream. Please call and set up an appointment to go over your holiday lighting needs. Let's plan together now, so you can have the best display in the neighborhood this December. Pre-Thanksgiving install dates fill up fast, so call to schedule your consultation today.

Cranky about Crabgrass? You're not alone....

Crabgrass is a grassy weed that germinates as the soil temperatures approach 55-60 degrees. It survives until first frost. As part of a total lawn care program, one or two appropriately timed applications of a pre-emergent herbicide provide substantial season-long control. In treated lawns, outbreaks that do occur generally do so in July and August, in thinner parts of the turf, along walks and driveways, and in parking strips. Post-emergent treatment with a specialty product such as Drive (either formulation) or Q4 will be effective. The earlier the crabgrass outbreak is treated, the more effective the control is.



In the long run, the best crabgrass prevention is a healthy, dense stand of turf, appropriately cared for. Thin areas/lawns should be overseeded at a minimum with high quality cultivars from a reputable seed dealer. If this is a do-it-yourself job, let us recommend the best seed for your lawn. In some cases, the sod may require replacement. During the mowing season, mow at the highest setting on your mower (not less than 3"), never removing more than 1/3 of the crown at any one mowing. The added benefit is that crabgrass does not like shade; so even if it germinates, the plant is denied the sun it craves by the taller, desirable grasses. Whatever your needs, it is important that we work together to maximize the benefits you receive.



Reminders

1. Schedule turf renovation or aeration & overseeding
2. Schedule irrigation system review
3. Schedule tree pruning
4. Schedule holiday light installation



The Rain Gauge

For a normal month of August, your turf should receive approximately 2.0 - 2.25 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.

Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home Memorial Benefit

Show our local military veterans how much you care while you dance the night away under the moonlit starry skies!!

The Confidentials, one of the region's premier party bands, will bring their soulful blend of funk, jazz and reggae to **Sumtur Amphitheater** on **August 20th** for an evening of singing, dancing and a rockin' good time! The band will be performing at a benefit concert for the Veterans Memorial planned for the campus of the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue. The whole town is invited, so this is a party you won't want to miss!

When: August 20, 2010. Gates open at 6pm; concert begins at 7pm.

Where: Sumtur Amphitheater, 11691 S. 108th St., Papillion, NE (about 1 mile south of Highway 370 on 108th St.)

Why: To benefit the Veterans Memorial at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, Bellevue, NE

Admission: Reserved Seating, \$15; General Seating, \$10 Concessions will be available.

Sponsored by: Hy-Vee, Bellino Enterprises, and Night Vision Fireworks

For more information or to purchase advance tickets, call Courtney Kucirek (402) 740-4184 or Aimee Middleton (402) 672-5050 or aimeemiddleton@msn.com. Information about the Veterans Memorial can be found at www.papillion.org/fire_leadership_sarpy.cfm

CM's: A concrete solution to your pavement dilemma



Did you know CM's has a complete concrete division? We do everything: demolition, new construction, repair, patios, driveways, sidewalks... you get the picture!

Some of the specialized treatments we offer include staining, stamping and sealing. We can help you add a distinctive flair to your property with the creative use of color and finishes.

Take a walk around your property. Do you have damaged concrete in need of repair or replacement? Call us today. We'll help you solve your concrete quandary.



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