



# CMS Curb Appeal

A more personal approach to lawncare

Round 2, 2010

413-533-3300

## Turf Tips

**Don't forget your lawn is a living thing and gets stressed. Do the following to help keep your lawn healthy.**

- Keep your mower blades sharp  
*(dull blades rip the grass)*
- Leave blade heights at 3-4 inches  
*(cut too short and the hot sun will easily burn the grass)*
- Never take off more than 1/3 of the grass blade during each cut  
*(taking more adds stress)*
- Mulch the grass clippings and leave them.  
*(adds nutrients back into the soil  
**IT DOES NOT PROMOTE THATCH**)*
- Water when needed *(not enough will cause drought stress – too much promotes disease)*
- Don't water in the evening or overnight *(grass stays wet too long and promotes fungus and disease)*

## From the Top

Just when you think you have experienced it all ---- Then comes Spring, Summer, and Winter all in a matter of a few weeks. The forsythia bloomed in March, today is May 10th and the guys came in this morning with winter coats on. IT'S CRAZY!

What happened for us? Well, we did start our applications earlier this year and finished our first round earlier than ever. In many cases we had customers who wanted their first application very early – which is not a problem but we were chasing many folks who still needed to do spring clean-ups.

We also had a heat wave back in March and early April prompting many folks to fire up their sprinkler systems. Now we are getting calls because winter came back and froze many of the backflows.

Even as early as last week we were seeing drought stress on many lawns. We activated as many sprinklers as possible but here we go again with temperatures down in 30's.

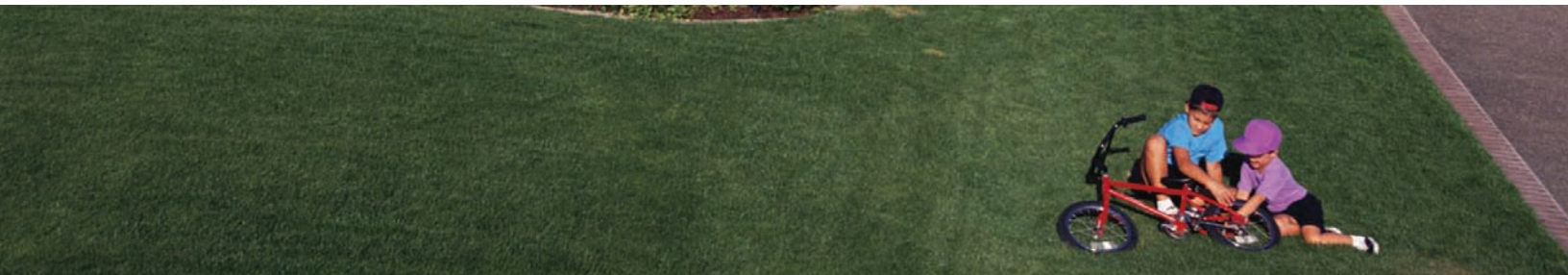
*If temps are below 32° for 2 hours or more your backflow could freeze. One of the best ways to prevent this in the spring or in the fall (prior to draining the system) is to wrap the backflow with an old towel or rag.*

*Just a little insulation works wonders.*



*Jay Ouellette and Bob Cameron,  
on site at Mountain Park,  
Holyoke, MA*





## Employee Spotlight

This year we are adding something new to our newsletter – **An Employee Spotlight**. I decided that it would be great to start with the person who most of you have had contact with either on the phone or by stopping at the office. *Elaine Bristol*



*Elaine Bristol and her Husband Steve*

Elaine is our Office Manager and thankfully has been whipping all of us into shape for the last 6 years. Her background is HR and customer service and she uses all of those skills here at CMS. She lives with her husband Steve in Enfield. They have a son Eric and daughter-in-law Beth in Waltham, MA and a daughter Laura and son-in-law Kristian in Newington, CT. They also have 2 lap-size pups that go most places with them (*did you ever notice when the kids go – you get a dog?*), and 2 fish that don't go anywhere with them. 😊 In her spare time, she sits on the Vestry and is very involved with her church, and also chairs The Family Partnering Team for Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity.

## From Elaine's Corner of The World

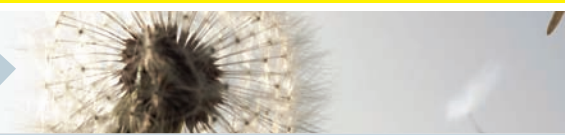
Well, by now you all know that we have put in a new computer system and have seen our new invoices. We have had some feed back on them and are pleased that you are finding them easier to read and understand. Of course, if you have any questions, please give us a call.

Don't forget to send us your e-mail address to get information hot-off-the-presses. I PROMISE we will NEVER share your e-mail address with anyone.

Send in the bottom part of your invoice with your payment (*it makes it easier to apply payments to your account*) and it will go into the drawing for a free fall lime application.

## SILVERPLUS

Silver Plus Club 25 Years



find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/cmslandscaping](http://www.facebook.com/cmslandscaping)

We are honored to add Richard Bartolomei from Longmeadow to our Silver plus Club. We have had the pleasure of servicing his property for more than 25 years and we appreciate the confidence and trust he has placed in us. Thank you so much for being part of our CMS family.

Login and join the discussion. It was a long cold winter, and I'm sure more than a few of you have questions on how to start off the 2010 season on the right foot.

**Tell your friends about CMS.** If they sign up for service, they will get a free soil analysis (a \$40.00 value) and **you** will get a **free service** up to \$50.00.

# 413-533-3300

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