



CMS Curb Appeal

A more personal approach to lawncare

Round 4, 2010
413-533-3300



SNOPEN

SNOPEN – The date is set for Sunday, November 7th for our annual SNOPEN Golf Tournament. More information will follow, but please put the date on your calendar for a great afternoon of fun, fresh air, and delicious food and all for a great cause: “Autism Speaks”.

FOOD DRIVE – Starting in our Round 5 we will again be participating in the Mayflower Marathon Food Drive. When we call to let you know that we will be out to do your last application or to drain your sprinkler system, we’ll remind you that we are collecting non-perishable food items for the Open Pantry. Please consider leaving a bag (small or large) with a donation on your steps and we will pick it up when we come out. We have the GREATEST, most generous customers who have increased the donations every year. Maybe this year we’ll have TWO trucks full. Thank you so much for all your support.

Don’t forget to send us your e-mail address. You’ll get up-to-date info and newsletters “hot off the press”. I promise we will NEVER share your e-mail address with anyone.

CMSlandscaping.com

From the Top

YIKES!!! It’s been a while since we’ve had a year like this one. I can’t remember as much talk about poor lawn conditions in a long time. Most recently, articles published in the Wall Street Journal, The Springfield Republican and CMS Curb Appeal, have been talking about the amount of stress on the lawns and the ramifications of that stress. Most lawns at this time are showing some signs of stress primarily caused by the heat and lack of sufficient water. The turf then goes into dormancy which is normal. However weeds, crabgrass, insects and disease swing into high gear. They are invigorated with no competition from the dormant turf.

With that said, let’s talk about the dormancy of the turf. Studies have shown that the longevity of the dormancy will determine how much of the turf will fully recover. Shorter periods of dormancy will have little impact but in a season like this one recovery will be substantially less, about 70-80%. That will leave 20-30% in need of repair. Within those damaged areas, the weeds and crabgrass have taken hold making the repair more difficult. If you would like a price to repair damaged areas on your lawn, speak to your lawn technician or call the office.

FAQ - “My lawn is *dead* so why are you putting fertilizer on it?”
Well, the lawn is not dead – but it is stressed. We’re still coming out to the property each round to check the lawn and determine if it appears that way because it has gone into dormancy or, because of it’s stressed condition, has become a haven for insects. If it’s dormant, we will still apply fertilizer because once it starts to recover (wake up) it will be very hungry and the fertilizer will be there. If it is an insect problem we will treat it. We will also be spot treating the weeds when weather-appropriate.

From Elaine’s Corner of The World

FALL - August brings a bountiful garden harvest and shooting stars. September brings cooler evenings, squirrels gathering fallen acorns, and back to school. When my kids were young and went back to school I always liked “getting back into a routine”.

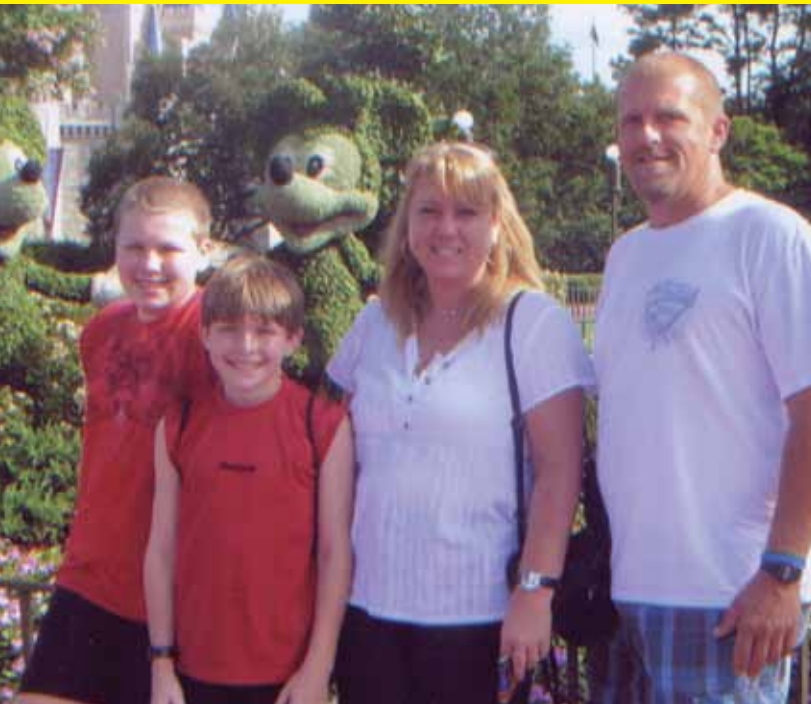
Well, here at CMS, September is anything but routine. We’ll be very busy with lime applications, core aerations, seeding, Fall sprinkler installations and we’ll have a narrow window of only a few weeks to get it all done before we start our fall sprinkler drains. I don’t want you to miss out if you would like any of these services done to your property, so please call us as soon as possible to be included on the schedule.

WHAT IS THATCH AND CORE AERATION?

Thatch is a very dense layer of living and dead stems, roots, plant crowns, and other plant parts that exist between the layer of green vegetation and the soil. Thatch accumulation results when the plant material is produced faster than it is decomposes and is caused by a variety of factors. Mowing infrequently or allowing the grass to grow too tall before mowing, compacted soil and poorly drained soil which leads to shallow root growth and improperly balanced pH are a few of the biggest reasons. A deep thatch layer severely inhibits water, nutrients, fertilizer, and air from reaching the root zone. Unhealthy grass plants are less resistant to drought, and more susceptible to insect and disease problems. Allow small mulched clippings to stay on the lawn after mowing as it does NOT increase thatch layers and is actually very beneficial for the lawn. Clippings are 80-85% water and the remaining dry matter is easily digested by soil insects and soil microflora. Almost all lawns will have a small thatch layer (½ inch or less) and is usually of no concern. For lawns that have a larger layer of thatch, the best approach to thatch control is core aeration. Core aeration promotes better moisture and air penetration into compacted soils and helps establish a deeper and healthier root system.

Core Aeration is both a curative and a preventative practice for thatch control. It's a process where a machine with hollow tines is used to remove plugs of thatch and soil (usually 2-3" in length with a diameter of ½ - ¾") and deposit them on the surface of the lawn. Once the plugs are deposited on the surface do not remove them as rainfall, irrigation, and mowing will break them up and disperse them back into the lawn. Fall is the optimum time to do core aeration and if you are interested please call the office for pricing and scheduling.

What the heck is NUTSEGE? Nutsedge is an undesirable weed "grass" (actually a tuber) that is usually a lighter green color and grows much faster than the rest of the lawn. It prefers sunny and moist (humid) conditions. Nutsedge is very difficult to control and usually requires more than one treatment. One of the best ways to minimize/slow the spread of nutsedge is to mow high during warm weather as close mowing stimulates the generation of new plants.



Employee Spotlight

Jay Ouellette – Jay is our Irrigation Manager and has been with CMS for 10 years. He has been in the irrigation business for the last 21 years and loves working outdoors. Although Jay remains quite busy during the season he is an active family man. Jay and his wife, Jacquie, have 2 great sons, Colby and Chase. They love to play games, go geocaching and travel. Recently, the family bought a home in Easthampton and are active in town sports, school activities and of course those never-ending home projects!

Jay and his family live with Autism in their world. The CMS family comes together every November for our annual Golf Tournament, "The Snopen", where all the proceeds go to "Autism Speaks". Look for our flyer in the Fall, join us for a great time and help Jay's family and many more like them!



find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/cmslandscaping

Login and join the discussion.

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** valued up to \$50.00.

413-533-3300

CMS Landscaping Corporation
175 Suffolk Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

CMSlandscaping.com