



# CMS Curb Appeal

A more personal approach to lawn care

Round 2, 2017  
413-533-3300

## FROM THE TOP

I'm sure you have heard the old saying about New England weather - if you don't like it, wait a minute and it will change. Well that is certainly the case this season so far. From very early spring to mid - summer and back again in just a couple of days! We're never really surprised as to what changes will occur in that minute or hour or day in New England, we just take it in stride, try to adapt and move forward.

When I interview candidates for employment, I always ask "how do you feel about working outside in all kinds of weather"? They always smile and say "no problem at all" 😊 On the first beautiful spring day when the sun is shining and it looks like it is going to be a great day.... but then, oh wait a minute here comes a snow squall. The smile fades and their face changes to a look of "what have I gotten myself into"! This season is no different, we are getting the same looks but for a different weather pattern.

Last year at this time we were in a full-blown drought situation. You may remember that it lasted all season and it was recorded as one of the worst droughts in recent history, leaving the water tables seriously deficient. As a result of the drought, water conservation and watering bans are already in effect in many communities. I would suggest that you check with your town's watering policy. In addition, make sure your sprinkler system is functioning properly. For those who run your systems in the early morning, I recommend you do a visual inspection of each zone to make sure all things are working correctly. If you have any concerns please give the office a call and they can write up a service call request for you.

The irrigation suppliers have taken notice as well and have developed some weather stations with wi-fi clocks and apps that can run your sprinkler system based on local weather conditions. With the same app, you can control your sprinkler system from your smart phone. It is pretty cool and if you would like more information please give the office a call.

As we approach the summer months, remember not to cut the grass short. The longer blades will help shade the soil and keep out the weeds. Once the grass is under stress, all the problems begin and weeds and disease will encroach quickly. Watering is critical, so if possible take advantage of whatever your community restrictions allow.



Don't forget we offer

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

An organic product using Cedar wood oil called Mosquito Free can help keep your yard free of mosquitos and fleas for 3-5 weeks. Call the office to schedule.

## CMS LANDSCAPING

Did you know that you can add-on Tick Control to your Lawn Care Program?

Call us today for your free quick quote!



## FROM ELAINE'S CORNER OF THE WORLD

May is my favorite month of the year! It is such a great month in nature. The trees are green, flowers are blooming everywhere, gardens are being planted, beds are freshly mulched, and lawns are looking their best. With all the rain we have been having, our lawn could almost use a mow twice a week, but it does look beautiful. Of course, the fact that we have 3 celebrations at our house in May doesn't hurt either. Our Anniversary, Mother's Day and My Birthday, yippee. Steve and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary, Mother's Day to our 2 wonderful children Eric 36, and Laura 33 and their fabulous spouses, but somehow, I will only be celebrating my "29th" birthday - so not sure how that adds up LOL.

Steve has already started his hydroponic garden on the side of our deck and it's looking pretty good already. This year along with his usual veggies he has planted strawberries and I can't wait to see how that works. Last year we didn't have very good luck with our fruit trees as we had a bad frost after they blossomed and we lost all the fruit. This year they have lots of flowers, and he is putting up a good fight against the caterpillars, so fingers crossed that we get a good crop. I'm getting ready to plant my veggie garden and the window boxes and planters with flowers in the next week or so. Everything always looks so nice and neat when the earth is newly cultivated and planted. The calm before the storm of weeds set in.



Our girls are back to full production and we are getting fresh eggs every day. Our friends and neighbors like the girls as much as we do as they are often the recipients of the bounty.

As many of you probably know, hummingbirds are my favorite bird and I am always eager to get started attracting them to our yard. So, my feeders are out, filled and waiting for their visits. I found this article and thought I would share it with you.

**Set up hummingbird feeders for the season!** Hummingbirds return to Massachusetts from their southern migration by late April/early May in most years, so the best time to have feeders ready is by the first week of May. According to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, feeders should be cleaned and re-filled at least once a week to prevent mold growth. Also, if ants invade your feeder, don't sweat it... hummingbirds actually eat both nectar and insects. For great information check out their web site at [www.massaudubon.org/](http://www.massaudubon.org/)

**Cleaning your feeders** should be done at least once a week to prevent mold growth. Soak in ¼ cup bleach to 1 gallon of water for an hour, clean with a bottle brush and rinse well with running water.

**Make your own "nectar"** Dissolve 1 cup of white granulated sugar into 4 cups of boiling water. Let cool and fill feeders. Change at least twice per week (more during very hot weather).

**Plant Hummingbird friendly plants** Bee Balm, native honeysuckle vine, pink turtlehead, phlox, salvia, snapdragon, and fuchsia.

**Hang your feeder** Near a window so you enjoy their beautiful aerial display as they feed and their fun antics as they protect their territory.

## SILVERPLUS

Silver Plus Club 25 Years



We are pleased to welcome Bret Coughlin of Longmeadow and Richard Appel of Holyoke to the Silver Plus Club. We have had the pleasure of servicing their properties for 25 years or more. The most exciting part for me, is that the club membership list keeps growing. Thank you so much for trusting us with your landscape year after year. We really appreciate it.



413-533-3300

CMS Landscaping Corporation  
175 Suffolk Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

[CMSlandscaping.com](http://CMSlandscaping.com)

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/cmslandscaping](http://www.facebook.com/cmslandscaping)