

RECOMMENDED QUESTIONS WHEN CHOOSING A LAWN CARE/ LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

REFERENCES

locations (go look at quality and condition)

contacts (call them)

EDUCATION

owner or crew supervisor should have some training:

formal horticulture or related training, i.e. Associates or Bachelor's degree in Horticulture, or

certifications or certificates of completion

Smartscape Program

Master Gardener Program

Arizona Certified Nursery Professional

Arizona Certified Landscape Professional Program

Certified Irrigation Auditor, Contractor, Designer or Manager

Desert Landscaper Certification Program

Certified Arborist or Tree Worker

Certified Pesticide Applicator

LICENSED & BONDED

check better business bureau for past complaints

check registrar of contractors for status and type of license

CUSTOMER SERVICE

do they return phone calls in a timely manner

are they easy to contact

are they friendly and courteous

how big is the company, if small, is there someone available at all times

will they provide records, work reports, written recommendations or plan-of-work reports

are they willing to have monthly or quarterly meetings or inspections with property management

WATER MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

weather / soil / turf type

seasonal scheduling

watering to promote deep roots

water distribution uniformity

are they willing to read meters and submit water reports

can they develop water budgeting schedules

IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

frequency of inspection

how do they handle repairs

PRUNING PHILOSOPHY

have they had special training in pruning

do they top trees (if so, it is not recommended to have them prune for you)

do they believe in minimal or heavy pruning

do they prefer natural or formal pruning

if plants require pruning constantly because of location, would they prefer to replace them with

something more appropriate

do they have knowledge of plant material and understand its' natural form

...choosing a lawn care/landscape contractor,
continued

WEED AND PEST CONTROL PHILOSOPHY

do they have an Arizona Structural Pest Control Certification Card

what is their philosophy on weed control in turf and/or in desert landscape areas

FERTILIZING REGIME

how often for desert plants and/or for tropical plants

how often for turf

TURF MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

what types of mowers do they use

at what height do they cut the grass

how often do they dethatch and aerate the soil

do they use top dressing

what is their overseeding philosophy

what is their schedule for reseeding winter rye