



## 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