



SEPTEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Professional Landscape Management

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PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

In today's economy there is constant pressure to cut costs, reduce overhead, and stay lean. This is all sound advice but it is necessary to be careful what you ask for.

The valley is full of "landscapers" that will do almost anything for your business. The question is, can they really do the job? First and foremost, are they insured? This means property liability, auto liability, and workman's comprehensive coverage. Are they a licensed contractor? This may not seem important but this is for your protection as a consumer. Are they a member of the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association? ALCA ensures the contractor is licensed and is continually updated on the latest methods and technology. Next, what safety and training methods do they have in place. Do they follow horticultural standards for maintenance or do they just indiscriminately shear the ornamentals and trees? Are they experienced in water management? Do they perform an irrigation evaluation upon inception of the contract so they have an understanding of your systems strengths and weaknesses?

I have only listed a few of the important items that need to be considered when choosing a landscape management company. What you save monthly on your service agreement can quickly be negated by improper maintenance methods, improper water management, or even a claim on your insurance because the contractor was not properly insured. Many people consider landscaping an unskilled trade. I think if there was any time spent evaluating that, you would find that the technology, education, and skill required to bring every facet of professional landscape management together takes more than a pickup, mower, and a business card. Check credentials, check references, and look at their work. Choose Asset Landscaping as part of your bidding process!

THIS MONTH IN LANDSCAPING

On our web site at www.AssetLandscaping.com, you will find a link to our landscape planner outlining areas that are common to focus on each month. Also check out the archived newsletters for additional timely information. Asset Landscaping is often requested to provide articles for local and national publications. Many of these are archived on our Newsletter page as well.

September is the month when Arizona begins the transition to fall weather. While the days remain rather warm, we begin to cool at night and when there is wind, it feels less like a hair dryer.

In terms of landscaping, the Bermuda grass will begin to go dormant when the night time temperatures average 65 degrees and lower. If you choose to over seed the turf for winter color, now is the time to prepare. When preparing your own lawn, the timing can be at your discretion. When you are timing the over seeding process all over the valley for hundreds of acres, it is an orchestrated process that requires in depth planning many weeks in advance and a "drop dead" date that once set, is tough to adjust due to the magnitude of the operation.



Due to the hardiness of the winter Rye, measures are taken now to help it recover next spring. A fertilization was recently applied to supply the roots of the Bermuda with extra nutrients which it can use to remain stronger while it is dormant. Additionally, rather than what is still the traditional method of mowing the Bermuda down to the dirt, scalping is now letting the grass grow taller before taking it to the 1" height for overseeding. This process is healthier for the Bermuda while allowing the Rye to germinate with limited competition from the Bermuda. Irrigation will be shut off to the turf approximately 1 week before the final reduction cut but will show some signs of browning before this. Water will remain off for approximately 2 weeks to force the Bermuda into dormancy and will be restarted as soon as the turf is over seeded. Please make this information available to others!



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