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## Selecting A Lawn Maintenance Company

Maintaining a healthy, attractive lawn requires knowledge of how lawns grow. Lawns in Florida require constant care in order to look attractive. Many home owners forgo maintaining their own lawns for a variety of reasons and hire lawn maintenance companies. Here are some tips to help you decide on selecting a lawn company.

**1. Make sure the program meets the needs for fertilization, mowing, and pest control in our area.**

The University of Florida/IFAS recommendations should be followed. Different lawn grasses require different care. Improper lawn maintenance will result in poor results and a waste of money and natural resources.

**2. Lawn maintenance companies should have knowledgeable personnel who can answer your questions.**

Ask how much training and experience they have with Florida lawns. Many people relocate to Florida and have no experience with warm season grasses, there maintenance and pest problems. They start lawn companies with no previous experience or educational background in lawn care, pesticide application, or horticulture. It takes education, time, and experience to correctly identify turfgrass and weed species, insect and disease problems.

**3. Ask if personnel are licensed for pesticide application.**

This is an important point since many pesticides can be harmful to humans, pets, and non-target landscape plants if not applied correctly. The correct pesticide applied at the correct rate for a specific pest problem is critical for proper maintenance practices.

**4. Get references from lawn companies.**

Ask for references from the lawn company. Find out the reputation of the company in the community. Lawn companies have different programs so you need to check out the companies before they begin work on your lawn.

**5. Contracts and Cost**

Contracts may be written or verbal, monthly or yearly, very detailed or very sketchy. Look at the cost of the total program and compare pricing for fertilization, pest control, mowing, aerification and dethatching.

Weed-free, trouble-free lawns can be maintained, but not as easy as it may seem. Florida's climate and soil conditions require greater attention to cultural details.

Lawn maintenance companies help to provide a quality lawn. But remember, a partial lawn maintenance program is no better than care given outside the maintenance contract. If not mowed, and irrigated correctly, proper fertilization and pest control will not produce optimum lawn quality.

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