



## **LANDSCAPE PROJECTS, INC. CHANGES TO FERTILIZATION APPLICATIONS**

### **UPDATE TO LAWN CARE: 2004**

The state of Maryland has passed the Water Quality Improvement Act which must be implemented by July 15, 2005. This law requires all commercially managed landscapes to follow nutrient management guidelines set by the University of Maryland. These guidelines have been set in place to help ensure the good health of our ground water, surface water ways and most importantly, the Chesapeake Bay. Although the state of Virginia and the District of Columbia do not have any requirements for nutrient management, we feel it is our responsibility to comply with the guidelines in these areas also.

Therefore, Landscape Projects, Inc. has changed its fertilizing practices so that we may be in compliance with this law. The Lawn Treatment portion in our Descriptions of Maintenance Services is the most noticeable change. In the past, soil samples were taken so that only adjustments to the Ph could be made. Now, these test will be used to detect the current levels of Nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, as well as the ph. The application of fertilizer will now have to be customized for each property to address its specific nutrient needs.

All turf areas will be receiving nitrogen when fertilizer is applied. This nutrient is considered to be deficient, as it is constantly being used by the turf grass plant. Phosphorous and potassium on the other hand are not metabolized as rapidly, and their levels in the soil can be excessive. These nutrients will be applied only when it is deemed necessary as determined by the soil sample results.

Another change can be seen regarding the ph and the application of lime. We are finding that many properties are now showing ph levels higher (alkaline) than optimal in both turf and bed areas. To adjust the soil ph to the recommended levels we will apply either lime or sulphur, which ever is the recommended nutrient.

Perennial Flower Care, Holly Tone & Groundcover, and the fertilization portion of the Plant Health Care will not change. The ph will be more closely monitored, and the fertilizer type will be based on the nutrients needed as indicated by the soil sample results. The application of sulphur or lime may be required depending on the type of plant material in the bed.