

Plant Health Care (PHC)

At the root of this program is... the soil. The soil on your property needs to be managed to provide the ideal fertility for optimum plant health. Beginning with soil samples a test can determine the overall health of the soil, its strengths and its deficiencies. With this information at hand a program can be developed to bring it and all it supports to its greatest potential. The dynamics of “healthy” soil are not terribly complicated but done



correctly, can take time. Current fertilization practices would have one believe that Nitrogen is the solution. While Nitrogen is the compound that gives a quick “green up” it is also one of the most harmful to the environment. Knowing your soils properties will allow us to develop a program specifically for your soil type. Using alternative organic nutrients and beneficial micro organisms these products can be introduced over time to allow your soil to become more self sustaining. Soils with the proper balance have the appropriate amounts of some less talked about minerals and fungi. Nutrients like calcium, magnesium, carbon and iron

need to be available in adequate supply for plants to flourish and take up fertilizer that is applied. The introduction of beneficial fungi, nematodes and insects allows for more natural lifecycles to occur in the soil. This process will also help to reduce your water usage by creating soil structure that is best for whatever plants it is supporting.

Aeration is also a critical component to having healthy plant communities. Current construction practices, human activities, even pets, create a tremendous amount of compaction. If mature plants are showing signs of decline it is possibly due to compaction or excessive mulching. Using special air tools we are able to carefully “loosen” soil around the plant or tree to allow for necessary air exchange. This process is also very effective for removing excessive mulch that can suffocate and girdle plants suffering from improper maintenance practices. Likewise for your lawn areas, weeds indicative of compaction and stressed plants tell the story of when lawn aeration is appropriate. This process of loosening the soil also allows us to carefully introduce quality composts and organic fertilizers directly to the roots so that the plant has nutrients that are readily available.





Plant Health Care (PHC) (cont'd)

Pruning and dead heading are perhaps the most obvious, immediate and beneficial service in the Plant Health Care (PHC) line up of services. By visiting your property on regularly scheduled intervals we will be able to assess and monitor all of your trees, shrubs and perennials. This approach allows for optimum visual appearance, greatest flowering and berry characteristics, maximum structural integrity and overall healthy plants. Weekly, bi-weekly or even monthly visits will allow us to care for your landscape on a schedule that is



appropriate to the health of the plants, not the convenience of any other schedule. This program would also allow us to make other improvements and provide preventive measures at appropriate times of year. Cutting back roses, perennials, hydrangea and grasses after the winter, planting seasonal color in spring, summer and fall, applying antidesiccants in the winter, this program is tailored to the specifics of your



property. Our trained horticulturalists are knowledgeable about when to perform these certain tasks. Our programs can be designed to allow you to continue with the more familiar mowing, trimming and fertilizing schedules. However we believe that with this additional level of service we will be able to preserve and enhance the value of your property, aid in your enjoyment of being outdoors, and bring your property to its maximum visual and environmental potential. Please feel free to contact us about how we can help.