



TREE NEWS

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YOU CAN USE

THE RIGHT PROFESSIONAL FOR THE RIGHT JOB

With the complexity of trying to manage all things landscape related, it can be overwhelming trying to decide who the best person for the job may be. Here we'd like to try and clarify a few important distinctions to best determine who can be called on when needed. It is important to know that the duties and work that designers, management companies, arborists, and consultants complete are not fully interchangeable; each of these disciplines relies on a unique set of skills, knowledge, experience, and equipment. Despite the desire to have an "all in one" company, the reality is that this is rarely the case.

As the adage, "Jack of all trades; master of none," goes, it's important to first define what your project needs are and, only by determining this, can we then select the best person for the job.

Landscape Designers – are unlicensed design enthusiasts, tailored to work with homeowners, avid gardeners, landscapers, and other professionals. Most often, these individuals will work in residential landscapes, helping with garden design and softscapes. Credentials for landscape designers include the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (PLA) and can support those that engage in best management practices.

Landscape Architects – are state-licensed architects, that are required to hold an accredited degree (BSA or MLA), engage in supervised intern hours, and pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. Most often, these individuals will work to help design public infrastructure, commercial sites, and landscapes that impact the public. While they too may work in residential settings, they hold a specialized skillset and credentials that are vital to support the design and long-term success of both public and private landscapes. Professional organizations, such as the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), can support professional development with certification programs and help promote continuing education and the use of recognized best management practices.

Landscapers – are crews that install, maintain, and refurbish existing landscapes. They should be well versed in the cultural practices (planting, pruning, watering, fertilizing, etc..) that promote longevity of plants in the landscape but are generally not certified, though they may attend professional development and educational classes to remain current on best management practices for the landscape.

ISA Certified Arborists – are credential-holding professional arborists. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists cover various aspects of tree care, have passed a credentialing exam, and must maintain regular Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to keep their certification active. ISA Certified Arborists are trained and knowledgeable in pruning standards set forth by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and adhere to a Code of Ethics as governed by the ISA.

Registered Consulting Arborists – can be deemed the experts of the trade to best provide you with trusted and ethical guidance as it pertains to trees. Registered Consulting Arborists (RCAs) are credentialed by the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA) and can assist with any number of tree-related issues, such as tree dispute resolutions, tree appraisals, strategic planning and guidance, consulting, and even expert testimony. RCAs have passed a credentialing exam and must also maintain regular continuing education requirements.

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