MONARCH ENVIRONMENTAL

Dear Monarch,

When do the landscapers fertilize? I don't think my plants are growing very well, should I fertilize them myself? The leaves are all yellow and look terrible.

FERTILIZER

Dear Concerned Homeowner,

Step away from the fertilizer! Your landscapers will apply fertilizers as needed at the appropriate time.

You may not know but . . .

- Fertilizers should not be applied without a correct **identification** of the plant species and a **diagnosis** of what **nutrient deficiency** it may be suffering from.
- You may be observing other **stressors**, such as over or under-watering, heat or frost damage, or a pest/disease. Fertilizer may not be required at all.
- Fertilizers have specific temperature ranges at which they are safe and effective. Soil that is **too cold** will not prompt the chemical reactions needed to break down fertilizer so that it is available to plants. If it is **too hot**, plants will be stressed and may defoliate or burn. **This is a waste of time and money.**
- In addition to temperature, there are specific **pH ranges** where nutrients are unavailable, so soil testing first may be advised to ensure efficacy.
- Over-applications of fertilizer leads to **leaching** (watering chemicals through the soil and polluting groundwater). Using more than the recommended amount (say, if a homeowner and a landscaper are both fertilizing) is harmful to the environment and may severely damage or even **kill plants.**
- Chronic issues (such as discoloration, stunted growth, or excessive leaf drop) should be reported to your **community manager** for professional inspection.
- **Monarch** is staffed with plant health care experts. We understand that is it critical to provide accurate plant identification, assess specific needs for that plant, and recognize symptoms of nutrient deficiencies that will inform our course of treatment.

MONARCH FUN FACT

Too much of a good thing? Excessive fertilizer can permanently damage or kill plants by drawing moisture from roots due to improper salt concentrations in soil, causing "burn."