

Dear Monarch,

An area near my house has recently been re-planted. I was so excited about getting new plants but they are all *tiny!* How can the landscapers get away with using plants you can barely see?

PLANT SPACING & SIZES

Dear Concerned Resident,

One of the most desirable features of a community is a mature landscape. We understand the disappointment with new stock compared to established material. Rest assured, there is strategy behind this decision and most plants just ask for a little patience.



- “Can’t they use BIGGER plants?” Like us, plants are often more resilient when young. The longer a plant has been containerized, the more difficult the transition to the field can be. A smaller plant size may be selected not only for cost efficiency but for long-term success and longevity.
- “Can’t they plant them closer together?” A wise landscaper plants for the future. Each species will have a maximum size potential that needs to be considered. Temporary plantings, such as annual color, are packed in close for visual impact but this tactic should never be applied to permanent areas.
- Space between growing plants is critical to good health. Increased airflow discourages the spread of pathogens, especially fungus. Crowded plants will quickly spread pests and disease and may block sufficient irrigation. These stressors lead to pests and aesthetic damage, creating a need for more labor, chemical intervention, and replacements.
- Crowded plants are forced to compete for resources. Space, water, nutrients, and labor rapidly increase in demand with a cramped population and only become scarcer as plants grow. This is not a sustainable use of your community’s assets.
- **Monarch** is staffed with horticultural experts, reviewing each planting proposal and invoice. We ensure communities are installing correct plant sizes and spacing based on industry standards. We also encourage taking pleasure in watching plants grow up!



MONARCH FUN FACT

Plants left in containers too long become **root bound**. Restricted space forces roots to encircle each other so tightly they may be unable to spread naturally. Plants will be stunted and may not survive.