

## *Dear Monarch,*

The landscapers never listen to me! I tell them what I want pruned (or what not to prune) and how to care for my yard but they do whatever they want!

## **DIRECTING WORKERS**

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### **Dear Concerned Resident,**

We get it. It can be frustrating when commercial landscaping does not live up to your expectations of having a personal gardener. Landscapers are directed by their foreman and are not contractually permitted to take direction from homeowners. Following homeowner direction may result in negative consequences for your landscaper!

- In many cases, there is more than one way to properly care for any given plant species. Pruning requests can be based on preference, not horticulture. When a landscaper is observed to prune something “wrong”, they are taking an approach that may be unfamiliar to homeowners but perfectly acceptable by industry standards.
- Asking for maintenance that is not part of the regular rotation will disrupt the workflow for your neighborhood. Crews will fall behind schedule and be unable to complete their required tasks.
- Instead of directing an individual landscaper, it is more productive to discuss maintenance with a decision-maker in your community. Landscapers do not have the authority to change practices to suit individual requests. Your property manager or board of directors can help explain the landscape goals, practices, and possible compromises.
- Enlisting the help of a professional will help demystify landscape practices. Monarch consultants regularly meet with contractors, property managers, boards and committees, and homeowners. Applying our industry knowledge to the specific community needs helps craft a landscape plan that is both practical and rewarding.

### **MONARCH TIP**

Holiday lighting, sports equipment, potted plants, and other décor can compromise landscaper efficiency. Nobody wants to damage your property! Keep your yard easy to maintain by minimizing obstacles.