

Landscape Gambling

By: Melinda Sperl

In most parts of life the old saying, “you get what you pay for” is very true even in landscaping. Whether trying to save money on mulch and ending up with a yard full of weeds, saving money on plants at the discount nursery and then they all die, or hiring the corner guy to landscape and only getting half the job done. These purchases might seem cheaper in the beginning but they end up costing you much more to replace or redo.

I often get asked why we don't buy my plants at the local, or cheaper, nursery. My answer is that I have to guarantee our work and plants. While I am sure these are quality plants, I do not know this nursery and the care that the plants get, so I will not warranty these plants. I have to pay for quality to offer quality work for my customers. Again, I get what I pay for. I don't gamble with my customer's yards.

The Soilyards where we buy our soil & mulch has proven over time that their products consistently continue to be quality materials and as weed free as any I have ever seen. Many yards take out weeds and debris and then chip them to sell directly as mulch. This then can cause many weed problems in your yard.

I have had a call from a customer after he had an irrigation system installed. A week after installation he noticed water pooling in his yard and called us to check his system as he was suspecting he had a problem. We evaluated the problems and I will just say that he ended up not getting a bargain. or Irrigation always ask for proof of license as they are required to have it with them at all times and in this case the licensing was questionable.

In the spring, a good landscape company is very busy. If they are not busy, well, maybe there is a reason. Unless they have just started their business, you should actually expect them to have a hard time getting to your yard. Please have patience with them, as this is our time to shine and remember all good things are worth the wait.

When hiring a landscape professional, as with any contractor, always ask for proof of insurance, irrigation license, references and professional affiliations. All these will help you to determine how much of a gamble that you want to take.

Happy Gardening!

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