

## Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Approved Specification – Landscaping Services

### **HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT:**

This document sets prohibitions and minimum requirements for landscaping and groundskeeping services procured by the State of Maryland with which Contractors are required to comply.

These guidelines apply to agencies constructing new or rehabilitating existing owned or leased facilities or otherwise implementing landscaping practices on agency owned or leased land.

Landscaping supplies and equipment used to fulfill landscaping service contracts must meet the requirements of the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee (GPC) Landscaping Supplies Specification.

### **FULFILLING LEED THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING**

**NOTE TO PROJECT DESIGNERS-** This specification meets a number of LEED v4 requirements. See below:

- The Sustainable Sites “Site management policy” prerequisite requires the creation and implementation of a policy to reduce chemicals, pollution, and waste. This policy should address a number of areas, including organic waste management, invasive and exotic plant species management, and fertilizer use. Organic waste should be returned to the site or diverted from landfills, invasive and exotic plant species should be managed through monitoring and education, and soils should be tested before using fertilizer to prevent over-application of nutrients. This specification helps to address this policy.
- The Sustainable Sites: “Site development – protect or restore habitat” credit requires either native or adapted vegetation on 20% of the site area (with a minimum of 5,000 square feet), or financial support to a land trust or conservation organization equivalent to at least \$0.05 per square foot of the site area. This credit is worth two points. This specification aims to help State agencies meet the 20% goal.



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### 1. LEGISLATION, STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS

#### *For Procurement Officers and Agencies*

##### **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing** (COMAR: [21.11.07.09](#))

“All procurement agencies shall purchase environmentally preferable products and services unless purchasing environmentally preferable products and services would limit or supersede any requirements under any provision of law or result in the purchase of products and services that:

- (1) Do not perform adequately for the intended use;
- (2) Exclude adequate competition; or
- (3) Are not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable period of time.”

##### **Mercury and Products that Contain Mercury** (COMAR: [21.11.07.07](#))

“All procurement agencies shall give a preference under this regulation to procuring products and equipment that are mercury-free. If mercury-free products and equipment that meet the agency's product performance requirements are not commercially available, the procurement agency shall give preference under this regulation to products containing the least amount of mercury necessary to meet performance requirements.”

#### *For Contractors, Bidders, and Offerors*

##### **Verifying Environmental Claims** (Md. Code Ann., State Fin. & Proc., [§14-410](#))

“A bidder or offeror for a procurement contract shall certify in writing that any claims of environmental attributes made relating to a product or service are consistent with the Federal Trade Commission’s Guidelines for the Use of Environmental Marketing Terms.”

##### **Pollinator Protection Act of 2016** ([2016 Md. Laws 7072](#))

The sale and use of neonicotinoid pesticides is prohibited in the State, with certain exceptions.

##### **Fertilizer Use Act of 2011** ([2011 Md. Laws 2810](#))

Lawn care professionals are required to comply with the University of Maryland’s fertilizer recommendations and best practices for lawn fertilization. Lawn-care professionals who conduct fertilizer application are required to be certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

##### **Low Noise Supplies** (State Fin. & Proc., [§14-403](#))

“To the extent practicable, each unit of the State government shall buy or lease for use by the State government supplies that are the quietest available supplies.”

**Limitations on Hazardous Substances** (Md. Code Ann., Env’t, [§6-1201](#)) “A person may not manufacture, process, sell, or distribute in the State a new product or flame-retardant part of a new product that contains more than one-tenth of 1% of pentaBDE (pentabrominated diphenyl ether) or octaBDE (octabrominated diphenyl) by mass.”

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**Limitations and Prohibitions on Heavy Metals in Packaging** (Env't [§9-1902\(a\)-\(b\)](#)) “A manufacturer or distributor may not sell or offer for sale or for promotional purposes any package or packaging component or any product in a package or packaging component to which any of the following was intentionally added during manufacture or distribution: (1) Lead; (2) Cadmium; (3) Mercury; or (4) Hexavalent chromium.”

**Noxious Plants** (Env't [§9-401-406](#)) “No person may (1) Import or transport a noxious weed in the State in any form capable of growth; or (2) Contaminate any uninfested land with a noxious weed through the movement of rootstocks, seed, soil, mulch, nursery stock, farm machinery, or any other artificial medium.”

## 2. SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING- TEN FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES:

State government shall buy or lease the quietest available supplies. Low-noise-emission certified products must meet the requirements of the federal Noise Control Act of 1972.

Best practices and performance goals for the design, construction, and maintenance for sustainable landscaping shall be based on the ten foundational principles found on page 5 of [Guidance for Federal Agencies on Sustainable Practices for Designed Landscapes](#).

## 3. PROHIBITED PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

- A. The use of neonicotinoid pesticides is prohibited.
- B. The installation of plants treated with neonicotinoids is prohibited.
- C. Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Transp., [§22-402](#), vehicle idling is prohibited.
- D. The disposal of biodegradable material as garbage, except noxious weed debris.
- E. The use of combination products (e.g., “weed and feed”, weed control + fertilizer, insect control + fertilizer, etc.).
- F. Composts, fertilizers, and other soil amendments used for State projects must not contain intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)(The bidder is required to submit written evidence that compost and fertilizer products are compliant with this requirement).
- G. The purchase and use of lumber and timber products that contain polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is prohibited.

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### 4. CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS

- A. The Contractor will provide staff able to perform work at the highest standards of horticultural practice. Key staff shall have current knowledge of best management practices (BMPs) regarding: sustainable landscaping design, native plant selection, invasive plant identification and removal, plant health, pruning, , pesticide application, irrigation maintenance, and safety procedures. The State reserves the right to demand the replacement of Contractor’s staff who do not meet the owner’s standards for safety, professionalism, or horticultural knowledge.

Maryland’s invasive plant list can be found in the Maryland GPC landscaping plants specification [here](#).

- B. All work shall be performed under the direct on-site supervision of a qualified landscape professional with a minimum of three years combined horticultural education and experience. Preference is for the individual to have at least a two-year horticultural degree or be a Certified Landscape Technician (CLT), combined with 1 year work experience or greater. Other acceptable certifications for general landscaping services include:
- Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Professional (CBLP);
  - Maryland Licensed Tree Expert (LTE); and
  - Certified Professional Horticulturist (CPH).
- C. The supplies and equipment purchased and used for landscaping projects on State sites must comply with the prohibitions and minimum requirements of the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Landscaping Supplies Specification.
- D. Professionals performing landscape irrigation must possess one of the [EPA’s WaterSense Professional Certifications](#) (Irrigation System Design, Irrigation System Installation and Maintenance, Irrigation System Audits).
- E. The individual applying fertilizer must be a certified Professional Fertilizer Applicator as recognized by the Maryland Department of Agriculture or work under the direct supervision of an individual who is certified.
- F. Applications of pesticides must be conducted by a certified and licensed Pesticide Applicator as recognized by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

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- G. The Contractor must provide employees with proper initial, on-site (or site-specific), and annual in-service training. Training must be done in a manner that respects any unique needs of the employee, such as limited English proficiency, physical challenges, or learning disabilities.
- H. The on-site supervisor shall have special training and/or working knowledge of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) assessments and treatment strategies in urban landscape conditions. The on-site supervisor may be required to provide recommendations to the State on pest management.
- I. The Contractor must submit a site-specific plan for landscaping and/or grounds maintenance to the Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative. The plan must address the requirements of this specification.

## 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANT SELECTION & INSTALLATION

This section applies to all plants, shrubbery, trees, etc. used at State sites.

- A. To the maximum extent practicable, only plants native to Maryland must be installed on State property. For guidance on native plant selection, refer to the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee specification for landscaping plants [here](#).
- B. The installation of non-native turf grasses must be minimized, to the extent practicable. The use of native turf-grass alternatives must be prioritized.

*Examples of native alternatives to turf grass can be found [here](#).*

- C. Prior to plant installation, the Contractor will notify the State of any invasive plants that are currently established at the site. Removal of invasive plant species will be coordinated with the State in advance, at a schedule determined by the Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative.
- D. Prior to plant installation, the plants must be inspected and confirmed to have sufficient health and no signs of disease from pests. The inspector must have at least two years of approved college education in forestry, arboriculture, horticulture, or applied agricultural sciences. If the individual does not possess a degree in these fields, that person must have proof of three years working experience in installing and maintaining trees, shrubs, and other plants on landscaping projects.
- E. Scheduled plant installations must occur in the months of spring (March – June) or fall (September – December).
- F. For planting containerized trees and shrubs, the root ball must be scarified and untangled so the circling roots grow outward to allow optimal plant growth. It must be planted at the

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proper soil depth, exposing the root flare of the tree/shrub, and about 10% of the root ball above ground level.

- G. The Contractor must install caging and shelters after planting to protect native plants at sites where wildlife activity is present. For instance, protective sleeves on the trunk can protect trees from beaver chewing and deer browsing.

## 8. FERTILIZER APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. The on-site supervisor must be certified as Professional Fertilizer Applicator by the Maryland Department of Agriculture or work under the direct supervision of an individual who is certified.
- B. Fertilizers must meet the requirements set forth in the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee’s Environmentally Preferable Specification for Landscaping Supplies.
- C. Fertilizer must not be applied to an impervious surface or be stored in a container on an impervious surface in a manner that would permit fertilizer runoff. Fertilizer that is inadvertently applied or leaked onto an impervious surface must be returned for reuse to the target surface or to either its original or another appropriate container.
- D. Fertilizer must not be applied to swales, bioretention ponds, or rain gardens.
- E. Fertilizer must not be applied in adverse weather conditions, including heavy rainfall, winds exceeding 15 miles per hour, and ground temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
- F. In addition, the Contractor must comply with the following requirements for fertilizer application:

### *G. Applying Fertilizer to Turf*

Fertilizer may be applied only to turf:

- i. Beyond a 15-foot buffer area from a water body; provided, that fertilizer may be applied beyond a 10-foot buffer area if a drop spreader, rotary spreader with a deflector, or targeted spray liquid is used for the fertilizer application;
- ii. When sufficient water is applied to the soil within 24 hours of application to immobilize the fertilizer and prevent fertilizer loss by runoff or when soil is sufficiently saturated to immobilize the fertilizer and prevent fertilizer loss by runoff;

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- iii. When a heavy rainfall is not occurring or not predicted to occur, and when soils are not saturated and the potential for fertilizer movement off-site exists;
- iv. After March 1st and before November 15th in a calendar year; and
- v. When the ground is not frozen.

### H. *Applying Fertilizer Containing Nitrogen to Turf*

- i. A fertilizer containing nitrogen may be applied to turf only if the fertilizer is at least 20% slow release.
- ii. A fertilizer containing nitrogen may be applied to turf only at an application rate of less than 0.7 pounds per 1,000 feet of water-soluble nitrogen, and at an application rate of less than 0.9 pounds per 1,000 square feet of total nitrogen.
- iii. Notwithstanding the preceding requirement, an enhanced efficiency fertilizer containing nitrogen that has a release rate of less than 0.7 pounds per 1,000 square feet of total nitrogen per month may be applied at an annual application rate of less than 2.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet of nitrogen. The annual total application rate may not exceed 80% of the annual recommended rate for total nitrogen, as established by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

### I. *Applying Fertilizer Containing Phosphorous to Turf*

- i. A low phosphorus fertilizer may be applied to turf if a soil test conducted within the previous 3 years indicates that the level of phosphorus in the soil is insufficient to establish, reestablish, repair, or support adequate turf growth.
- ii. A low phosphorus fertilizer refers to a fertilizer containing no more than 5% of available phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ), and that has an application rate not to exceed 0.25 pound of available phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ )/1,000 square feet/application and 0.5 pound of available phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ )/1,000 square feet/year.
- iii. A fertilizer that contains phosphorus in an amount greater than 0.67% phosphate by weight may be applied to turf if the soil test indicates that the level of phosphorus in the soil is insufficient to establish or reestablish turf. The application of fertilizer allowed under this paragraph shall not exceed the amount or rate of application of fertilizer recommended by the soil test, as determined by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

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### 9. DESIGN & OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW LANDSCAPING PROJECTS

#### *A. Pollinator-Friendly Habitats*

- i. The Contractor’s design recommendations for a site must devote at least 20% of all landscaping area to developing pollinator-friendly habitats, unless otherwise specified by the project manager or designated representative.

#### *B. Soil Conservation*

- i. When applicable, construction planning must be designed to preclude parking of all heavy equipment, vehicles, and materials storage within the footprint of the site to the extent possible.
- ii. Soil compaction must be minimized during the construction and maintenance of landscaping projects. If the project requires heavy machinery to operate on the soil, the Contractor must till the compacted area to restore the soil to its original state.

#### *C. Protection and Restoration of Riparian, Wetland, and Shoreline Buffers*

- i. The Contractor must identify any existing riparian, wetland, or shoreline buffers present at the site.
- ii. The Contractor must notify the State if a new site/landscaping project will interfere with an existing riparian, wetland, or shoreline buffer. The Contractor must not disturb any existing riparian, wetland, or shoreline buffer. Where practical, buffer widths of 300 feet or greater should be established with intent to provide protection of wildlife migration corridors and habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.
- iii. If a disturbed buffer area is identified, the Contractor must notify the State’s Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative and the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee. The State may request the disturbed buffer area to be restored in order to improve flood control, water quality, stabilize soils, control erosion, and provide wildlife corridors and habitat.

#### *D. Materials Waste Management Plan*

For new construction and landscaping projects, Contractors, to the maximum extent practicable and when applicable, must:

- i. Divert construction and demolition (C&D) materials generated by site development from disposal in landfills and/or combustion in non-energy producing incinerators.

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- ii. Ensure that all non-hazardous structural materials and infrastructure/road materials are recycled, reused, and/or salvaged and coordinated between designers and contractors.
- iii. Reuse or recycle vegetation, soils, and mineral/rock waste generated during construction to achieve a zero-waste site.
- iv. Retain or reuse on-site materials from on-site land clearing activities except for contaminated soils and diseased and/or invasive plant materials.
- v. Wherever possible, ensure site design should encourage balance of cut and fill.
- vi. Take all excess vegetation and recyclable materials to composting and/or recycling sites.

## 10. GROUNDSKEEPING AND CONTINUING MAINTENANCE

### A. Maintenance Scheduling

- i. The Contractor must submit a written schedule for seasonal maintenance activities to the Building Services Supervisor or designated representative for review. The details of the maintenance schedule must include the type of work to be completed (fertilizing, weeding, mowing etc.) prior to that scheduled day of maintenance. The materials used on that maintenance day must be documented by the Contractor and submitted to the Building Services Supervisor within 24 hours after the work was completed.
- ii. The Contractor must review the proposed schedules with the Building Services Supervisor or designated representative and adjust as necessary to avoid conflicts.

### B. Watering

- i. Irrigation equipment (e.g., spray sprinkler bodies and irrigation controllers) purchased for watering turfgrass and native plants must be [EPA WaterSense](#) certified.

### C. Planting Installations

- i. Invasive plant identification and removals must be completed at the site as part of ongoing maintenance.
- ii. The Contractor must strictly consider if watering and fertilizer is required.

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*While native plants may require water for a period after installation, once established, native plants are suited to the local climate and do not require additional watering or fertilizer.*

### D. Mowing and Pruning

- i. On newly installed turfgrass sod, the Contractor shall not perform mowing activities within the first eight weeks of the sod being installed to allow the roots to fully establish in the soil.
- ii. Seasonal, performance-based mowing (spring 3”, summer 4-5”, fall 4”) and annual pruning practices must be utilized rather than regular shearing and mowing.
- iii. Prune plantings only as necessary, appropriate to site, need, season and plant species. The Contractor must discuss significant pruning work with the Building Services Supervisor or designated representative prior to work beginning.
- iv. All pruning will be performed by, or under the direct on-site supervision of, staff with documented education and training in proper and naturalistic pruning techniques.
- v. Pruning must only be performed by trained personnel in accordance with accepted horticultural practices.
- vi. Pruning shall be conducted to enhance the natural growth and shape of plant materials and intended function of the planting.
- vii. Shrub plantings are designed to grow together and to the edges of the beds to minimize weed infestation and maximize water conservation. Prune to encourage a dense, continuous planting, with natural shape and branches reaching fully to the ground.
- viii. Shearing is only permitted for formal hedges. Do not shear shrubs into topiary (shapes). Prune back branches as needed when interfering with walks, buildings, signage, fire control utilities, site lighting, security/safety visibility, site lighting, and vehicular circulation.
- ix. Prune dead and broken branches quarterly and more frequently as required.
- x. Ground covers are to be trimmed so they meet but do not grow over walkways or outside any of the planters.

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- xii. Pruning of trees greater than six inches DBH (diameter at breast height) will only be performed by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified Arborist. Removal of trees shall be done in accordance with all local code requirements.
- xiii. The Contractor must replace plant materials that are disfigured or damaged due to improper pruning at no additional cost to the State.

### E. Mulch Replacement and Replenishment

- i. Mulch must meet the requirements set forth in the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee’s Environmentally Preferable Specification for Landscaping Supplies.
- ii. Replenish mulch regularly to maintain a depth of no less than two inches (2”) in all planting areas, including tree wells. Established beds where plant foliage or groundcover completely covers the soil surface require no additional mulch. Keep mulch at least two to three inches (2 – 3”) away from the crown of plants and trees.
- iii. When replacing existing mulch, use a mulch product that is similar in appearance to that already at the site.

### F. Waste Management for Vegetation Trimming, Leaves, and Branches

- i. The Contractor must incorporate composting and/or recycling of 100% of vegetation trimmings. When appropriate, trimmings and leaf material shall be composted on site and be used as fertilizer/mulch for the plant installations.
- ii. Leaves must be mulch mowed, if on turf, or left in planting areas throughout winter, spring and summer when leaf fall is not excessive and plant health is not adversely affected. Leaves may be blown or raked under the shrubs or groundcover and into the wood chip mulch.
- iii. In autumn, leaf removal shall occur at each visit as needed to prevent smothering of turf and groundcovers and excessive clumping when mulch mowing. Remove leaves from site only as needed to maintain a neat appearance and the health of the plantings.
- iv. When applicable, remove biodegradable landscape debris (turf clippings limited to only those times when mulch mowing is not possible), leaves, branches, annuals, dead plant material, etc.) to a yard reuse recycling facility. Acceptable sites include topsoil producing facilities and/or other facilities, which utilize yard waste for landscape purposes. The vehicle moving the debris off-site must be tarped and must cover the landscaping debris securely to prevent it from leaving the vehicle while it’s transported.

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- v. When applicable, the Contractor will develop a Tree Preservation Program to establish the goals and specify the procedures for tree branch pruning, brush removal, tree felling, tree root pruning, tree fertilizing, and other tree preservation operations to protect trees and vegetation at the site.

### G. Weed, Pest, and Disease Control

- i. Use cultural methods (mulch, proper pruning, proper irrigation) to encourage plant health and growth and discourage weeds.
- ii. Keep planter beds and tree wells free of weeds and debris on a rotational basis, weekly throughout the year by hand pulling or other mechanical means.
- iii. The entire site shall be weeded by hand or mechanical weeding methods that remove the roots at least once monthly.
- iv. Use of pre-emergent herbicides is not permitted without prior written approval of the Building Services Supervisor or designated representative and on an incident-by-incident basis. Pre-emergent herbicides shall only be used on sites with at least two years of plant establishment. Areas considered for pre-emergent use are limited to tree wells and mulch-only beds without groundcover. Pre-emergent herbicides are not allowed in planted shrub beds or graveled pedestrian walkways.
- v. Standard maintenance, non-chemical practices must be documented in areas where pre-emergent use is being considered before approval for use must be given. Standard maintenance practices include hand weeding, edgings, mulch application, and proper pruning.
- vi. Apply insecticide or fungicide to trees, shrubs and groundcovers only when significant plant damage would result from not addressing the infestation.
- vii. Regularly scheduled calendar-based applications of pesticides are not allowed without prior approval of the Building Services Supervisor or designated representative.
- viii. Preventative “blanket” applications of pesticides is not allowed without prior approval of the Building Services Supervisor or designated representative.
- ix. If the Contractor determines that calendar-based or “blanket” applications may be needed, the Contractor shall provide the Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative with two weeks advance notice of request. The Building Services Supervisor or designated representative will determine if such applications will be allowed. The Contractor shall provide the Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative with the following information in a request for calendar-based or “blanket” application of any pesticide:

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- a. Identification of pest and reasons for control is required.
  - b. Description of the cultural, non-chemical, and/or spot application of pesticides already tried and assessment of success or failure of those remedies.
  - c. Product recommendation and information on health and environmental hazards of that product.
- 
- x. The Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative will determine if a calendar-based or “blanket” application will be allowed and if so, may request that the Contractor use an alternate product, based on health and environmental information.
  - xi. The Contractor is responsible for any damage to plant material incurred as a result of failure to immediately notify the State of correctable disease and/or insect problems, and the Contractor must replace any such damaged plant material at no additional cost to the State.

### H. Equipment Usage and Maintenance

- i. The Contractor must clean all equipment before moving to new sites to ensure that invasive species are not transported to new areas.

## 11. GUARANTEE AND REPLACEMENT

- 1) The Contractor is not responsible for losses, repair or replacement of damaged work or plant material resulting from theft, extreme weather conditions, vandalism, vehicular incidents (other than Contractor’s vehicles) or the acts of others over whom they have no reasonable control.
- 2) The Contractor shall replace, at no additional cost to the State, any turf or plant materials damaged as a result of improper maintenance attention or procedures in conformance with the landscaping master plan.
- 3) Replacement material shall be of the same size and variety as the dead or damaged material.
- 4) The Contractor must replace plant material within two weeks of identification of damage. Alternatives to size, variety and scheduling of replacement are only allowed by written permission of the Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative.
- 5) The Contractor shall inform the Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative monthly of plant losses not covered by warranty and unrelated to the maintenance activities. The Contractor must provide the Building Services Supervisor or their designated representative with the cause of the plant loss, and

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provide recommendations (in line with the specification) for replacement along with pricing for replacement.

### 12. COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) The Contractor must provide a supervisor to act on the State’s behalf regarding all matters pertaining to the performance of the landscaping service. The Contractor must notify the Building Services Supervisor or designated representative when the Contractor’s supervisor will be on vacation or other leave of absence and who will serve as a substitute.
- 2) The Contractor must:
  - a) provide the Owner with an emergency contact list identifying the names, positions held, and phone numbers of key maintenance personnel;
  - b) provide mobile and pager numbers for the landscape maintenance manager and site supervisor; and
  - c) attend meetings and site inspections of the grounds as requested by Owner.

### 13. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

#### *A. Applying Organic Fertilizer for Turf Enhancement*

The Contractor may use this fertilizer application guide below for turf enhancement.

- i. March: Granular fertilizer (0.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet); ideally using an organic pre-emergent to prevent weed growth.
- ii. April: Spot spray weeds with an organic approved herbicide.
- iii. May: Granular fertilizer (0.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet); ideally using an organic pre-emergent to prevent weed growth. Spot spray weeds with an organic approved herbicide.
- iv. June: Conduct soil test. Apply liquid soil amendments and fertilizer (0.034 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).
- v. July: Liquid soil amendments and fertilizer (0.034 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).

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- vi. August: Liquid soil amendments and fertilizer (0.034 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).
- vii. September #1: Granular fertilizer (0.4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).  
Spot spray weeds with organic approved herbicide.
- viii. September #2: Granular fertilizer (0.4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).  
Apply granular pelletized compost (25 pounds per 1,000 square feet). Aerate the soil.  
Apply turf grass seed (8 pounds per 1,000 square feet).
- ix. October #1: Granular fertilizer (0.4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).
- x. October #2: Granular fertilizer (0.4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).  
Adjust level based on the June soil test results.

### *B. Equipment Recommendations*

- i. Blowers and other power equipment must be low- decibel, low-fossil fuel consumption, low-emissions models, and shall comply with all applicable local noise ordinances. The use of electric powered landscaping tools shall be prioritized to accommodate for these impacts.

## 14. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING LANGUAGE

**Instruction to Procurement Officers: Please include the following language to your solicitation if it does not already exist.**

### *A. On Environmentally Preferable Purchasing:*

**The State of Maryland is committed to purchasing environmentally preferable products and services (EPPs).** Maryland’s State Finance & Procurement Article §14-410 defines environmentally preferable purchasing as “the procurement or acquisition of goods and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing goods or services that serve the same purpose.” Accordingly, Bidders are strongly encouraged to offer EPPs to fulfill this contract, to the greatest extent practicable.

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### B. On Maryland’s Green Purchasing Reporting Requirements:

**The State of Maryland requires, at a minimum, from the Contractor annual sales data over the life of this contract; the State also reserves the right to request quarterly sales data over the life of this contract.**

The report shall include at a minimum, details about the third-party sustainability certifications and other environmental attributes of products and services sold on this price agreement per the contract specifications.

### C. On Environmental Claims

**All environmental benefit claims made by the Contractor concerning products or services offered on this contract must be consistent with the [Federal Trade Commission’s Guidelines for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims](#).**