

Dear Landscaper,

Starting this year we would like our property to be maintained without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides of any kind. The toxic chemicals that are commonly used for lawn care are all associated with some risk to human health or the environment, and we do not want to take that risk with our family, especially our children.

Please follow the guidelines below:

Test the soil

Use compost or compost tea for soil building and disease control

If needed, use a slow-release low nitrogen organic fertilizer, rock dust or dolomitic lime

Use a corn gluten product for pre-emergence weed control (crabgrass and broadleaf weeds)

Mow the lawn at 3" and leave clippings on lawn (change mowing patterns frequently)

Use "Milky Spore" or beneficial nematodes if needed for grub control

Use insecticidal soap or hot pepper spray for insect control on shrubs and trees

Seed in early fall with a mixture of indigenous grasses including some endophytic-enhanced varieties

Thank you for helping us protect our family's health and our environment.

Very truly yours,