

Tips for Contracting with a Service Provider

Factsheet

When contracting with a service provider, it is important to specify the services that will be provided to ensure a systems approach that builds soil health through natural fertilization and cultural practices. To be successful, a service provider will need to offer the full range of services.

Make sure that service providers can perform or provide the following:

- Soil testing for nutrient and textural analysis
- Mowing
- Aeration
- Overseeding
- Compost, compost tea, and natural fertilizer
- If necessary, recommended materials, including biological pest control and specific least-toxic chemical controls (see pp. 22-24 in [Maintaining Sustainable Lawns and Landscapes](#))

If one service provider does not offer the range of services necessary to ensure a systems approach to turf management and two separate service providers are contracted for that purpose, make sure that the two companies can coordinate their activities to follow all the necessary steps outlined in *Maintaining Sustainable Lawns and Landscapes*.