

## Planning Ahead

Budget season is upon us. This is a timely opportunity to address some of the questions that may arise during the year.

Why don't the annual flowers look very good? Many annual budgets do not allow for seasonal (quarterly) flower change outs. In fact, timely well-designed color plantings throughout the year are a cost effective way to enhance the focal points of your property through every season.

When is the best time to plant? Fall is the best time to plant large quantities of new plantings in established beds. The season is still warm enough for roots to begin to establish themselves and the fall/winter rains are normally sufficient enough to support them.

Why do the trees look sickly? Tree health care is a most integral part of a property. If not cared for and trained properly, young trees can develop into future liabilities. Fall is the best time to perform deep-root fertilization of your trees for continued health and/or rehabilitation. JPA can provide reports and multi-year Tree Management programs prepared by a Certified Arborist.

What is the sticky mess that appears on the sidewalks every Summer? In most cases this is the result of an Aphid infestation. Aphids feed on the leaves of the tree and secrete "honeydew" which falls to the ground. Pre-emptive measures can be taken to prevent next year's Aphid feedings and other pest issues.

Why does the grass around the tree die? A maturing tree will dominate the area by: compacting the soil, shading, taking up soil and nutrients, and changing the soil chemistry. At some point a decision must be made whether to keep the tree or the turf. Other viable options to turf include; shade planting, cobble mulch, benches, or groundcover.

What is a good rule of thumb for tree to building clearance? Cut tree branches a minimum of 4' from rooftops, 6' from chimneys, and 20" from walls.

How much water does an average 180 degree (1/2 radius) sprinkler put out? About 3/4 of a gallon per minute.



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