

How to Select an Installation Crew for your New Native Landscape

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Here are some questions to ask when interviewing an installation crew: (Space is provided to write your answers)

- 1) Are you familiar with native plant species and their scientific names.

- 2) Are you familiar with native species and how to put them into the ground?

- 3) What sized plants are you familiar with? Do you know how to install plugs?

- 4) Do you install and maintain irrigation? I don't usually recommend putting in irrigation for native plantings.

- 5) What does your plant installation bid include? Things to look for would be:
 - a. Preparation of planting beds
 - b. Labor
 - c. Disposal fees
 - d. Repairing irrigation damaged during removal of old plants.
 - e. Does the price include mulching?
 - f. Does the price include the initial watering in of the plants?

- 6) Can they give you more than one reference?

- 7) Do you install more than plants? Are you able to do any hardscaping if necessary?

- 8) Do you source plants? If so, is this a part of the bid, and where do you source your plants from? Are these plants coming from your local area? This can make a difference in how your plants do in their new homes.

- 9) Do you handle maintenance?

- 10) Are they able to read and follow a design plan?

- 11) How long do you estimate the whole project will take?

- 12) Who do I contact if I notice a problem?

- 13) Can you install outdoor lighting?

- 14) While the crew works on my yard, what should I expect their days to look like?

- 15) If I encounter any difficulties during the installation, who would I address the issues to?

- 16) Do you have any special credentials that qualify you for this installation?

- 17) Any other questions that occur to you: