

MAINTENANCE GUIDEBOOK IV LANDSCAPE AND GENERAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

GLOSSARY

AERATION—The act of aerating the soil, supplying the soil with air.

AGRONOMIST—A specialist in the area of field-crop production and soil management.

ALKALINITY—The opposite of acidity, the measure of the pH level of a substance (above a pH of 7). When used to describe soils, it is a measure of how "sweet" the soil is.

ARCHITECTURAL SCREENING—The use of walls made of wood, concrete, brick, or other construction materials to provide a visual or physical buffer between two areas. (See VEGETATIVE SCREENING below.)

COMPOST—A mixture of decayed organic matter used for fertilization.

FUNGICIDE—An agent used to destroy or inhibit fungi.

HERBICIDE—An agent used to destroy or inhibit plant growth.

HORTICULTURALIST—A specialist in the science of growing fruits, crops, vegetables, and ornamental flowers.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT—A registered specialist in developing outdoor environmentally sound areas for a range of activities.

MULCH—An organic protective covering (compost, paper, shredded wood, leaves, etc.) spread on the ground to slow the process of water evaporation from the soil, maintain even soil temperatures, and control weeds.

PEAT—Vegetable tissue formed by partial decomposition in water of various plants.

pH—An abbreviation for "power of hydrogen," and an indication of how "sour" (acid) or "sweet" (alkaline) soils are. Acidity or alkalinity is measured on a scale of 0 (the most acid) to 14.0 (the most alkaline), with the neutral point at 7.0.

PRUNE—To cut away decaying or unwanted plant growth.

SHEARS—A cutting tool resembling a large pair of scissors, used to trim and prune plants, flowers, shrubs, and trees.

SOIL AMENDMENT—An additive, such as peat moss, mixed into soil to improve its physical properties, such as looseness or the amount of air it contains.

SPIGOT—The mouth of a faucet that regulates the flow of water.

SPRIGGING—The planting of individual plants, runners, cuttings, or stolons at spaced intervals.

STOLON—The name given to a branch which originates above the soil level and takes root when it comes in contact with the soil.

VEGETATIVE SCREENING—The use of living materials, such as vines and shrubs, to provide a visual or physical buffer between two areas. (See ARCHITECTURAL SCREENING above.)