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Each day as a landscaper, I am presented with the challenge of running crews, obtaining the materials they need to perform efficiently, ensuring that their knowledge is accurate, monitoring properties for horticultural imbalances or other



issues while continuously improving and developing my own skills in order to provide correct information to my co-workers and impeccable customer care to our clients.

I am in a professional position which allows me to be the true “plant geek” that I am, use the skills I learned in earning the Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) degree in the University of Florida (UF) Plant Medicine Program program, and continue to pursue knowledge through professional development and networking.

As a **Plant Doctor** I personally apply and teach skills which I gained through my education at UF: Pest identification, observation of landscapes, thinking long term and

outside the box and in a practical manner about landscape management. These are only a few of the daily perspectives that I utilize.

My quest to optimize landscape beauty and health has become a bit of a pleasant obsession...every plant and every situation has a story to tell. I try to figure out possible outcomes first through mentally dissecting a plant and thinking about plant health care as well as the aesthetic aspect. For example, a tree may look great structurally, but over time it may be susceptible to insects, disease, environmental stress, or a complex of these factors. If a tree is planted, what are long and short term solutions to reduce plant stress and ensure tree health?

By applying the plant health management strategies and techniques I learned through the DPM curriculum, I am able to provide great options for our clients' properties as well to develop the skills of my co-workers.

Generally, I try to balance:

- Supervision of property maintenance, crews, meetings, and record keeping
- Maintaining budget and financial expectations
- Developing plant health care programs including environmentally compatible pest management strategies and fertilization schedules
- Employee training
- Plant and pest identification
- On-site recommendations to clients, crews, and other professionals involved in the landscape
- Supervision of the plant health care program and property monitoring
- Continuing my education as a Massachusetts Certified Landscape Professional (MCLP) through the Associated Landscape Contractors of Massachusetts (ALCM)

I believe I have the best of everything! I came to the DPM program so that I could better understand and use the plants that I love in the best method possible. I left UF with new perspectives and revisit the information and skills I gained in the Plant Medicine Program daily.

To learn more about NatureWorks Landscape Services, Inc. visit their website at: <http://www.natureworkslandscape.com/home.html>