

dreamflower, LLC

horticultural consulting ♦ skilled garden maintenance ♦ garden images
6411 Seven Oaks Drive ♦ Falls Church, VA 22042 ♦ 703.395.2882 ♦ nancy@dreamflower.cc

dreamflower, LLC information + policies

Nancy Noll Kolinski, owner / horticulturist

I am a USDA-certified horticulturist with over 10 years of nursery and estate-gardening experience, including 4 years as a gardener at the Mount Vernon Estate. My company, dreamflower, LLC, provides horticultural services including:

- horticultural consulting (plant id/care instructions; garden design/maintenance advice)
- skilled garden maintenance (weeding, invasive plant removal, pruning)
- curb appeal (seasonal or perennial planting and design)
- small landscape design
- horticultural photography

My fees are:

- Consultation / site visit: \$75/hr
- Specialized pruning (ie, Japanese maples): \$50/hr
- All other work / design / research: \$40/hr
- Emails of more than one full paragraph or multiple emails will be charged at the hourly rate

An initial consultation / site visit is where we discuss your landscaping goals so I can provide you with conceptual ideas and professional recommendations. Depending on the scope of the project, I can then either:

- recommend someone to do the work;
- agree with you on work I will do; or
- advise you on how to do the project yourself, including follow-up documentation.

Since I am a horticulturist (plant person), not a landscape architect, I am only qualified to work on small projects mostly involving plants; if your project involves hardscape, grading, etc., I will be happy to discuss with you the various options and recommend several people whom you can contact for an estimate. Also, I am not an arborist and do not prune large trees, but can give you a preliminary evaluation and suggest arborists and tree services I have found to be reputable.

Scheduling

I do not work on projects on weekend days or Federal holidays. However, site visits may be scheduled on weekends for clients who cannot meet during the week due to work obligations, etc. A \$25 missed appointment fee will be assessed if I am not notified within ½ hour of the appointment time. I can be reached by phone, email or text.

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I request that any member of the household who has an opinion on the project be present at least for the initial site visit. If one household member has been deputized to speak about and make decisions for the project, then I will meet with that person. Meeting with all concerned helps me to propose solutions to accommodate all concerned parties, and to avoid making any major changes mid-project.

Weather

In the case of steady rain, thunderstorm, heat/air-quality advisories or other dangerous weather situations, I will contact you to reschedule your work for the next mutually convenient date. (While steady rain is not dangerous, it is not healthy for the soil or plants to step in planting beds while they are soaked.) Cancellation will depend on the work to be done. I generally make a determination as soon as possible the morning of the scheduled job, as the weather people don't always know what the sky will do...

Poison ivy

I am very sensitive to poison ivy and do not work in areas where it has been found, as it ends up costing me money in both days lost and medical bills. If you know that there is poison ivy in the area where I will be working, or I encounter it after I begin work, I can recommend someone less sensitive to complete the work.

Use of chemicals

As a member of the Virginia Native Plant Society and an advocate of organic gardening, I do not personally choose to use aggressive chemicals and am not certified to apply chemicals other than those which can be purchased by the general consumer. If I do observe a severe pest or disease problem in your garden, I can recommend solutions, starting with the most benign and working up to stronger solutions if needed.

Additional gardeners

dreamflower, LLC has one employee, me; however, I do occasionally contract with extra help for large or heavy projects, or if a project must be completed on a short time schedule. The gardeners I contract with are people who are known to me personally or recommended by people I have worked with. They are either gardening professionals or home gardeners with years of experience. I will discuss the need for extra help with you when we agree to the parameters of the job.

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Invoicing

- I accept payment via cash or check (written to dreamflower, LLC).
- Payment may be made day of service, or within 30 days of my invoice.
- Invoices not paid within 60 days will begin to collect interest at the 6% allowed by VA law.
- Paper invoices can be left day of service (for garden maintenance), or a .pdf can be emailed.
- Garden maintenance is generally invoiced by the day, while landscaping is invoiced by the project or portion of project.
- Funds for plant and materials purchases must be paid in advance, as per the discussed budget.

Below are some definitions of terms I use when creating an invoice, proposal or budget.

Definition of Terms

- Site Visit: initial meeting with client to discuss project; payable on day of visit.
- Design: includes research, design and creation of document packet including plant care, project estimate, and any other relevant details / instructions.
- Plants: cost will vary depending on size of project, time of year, availability of plants, whether perennials or shrubs are used, etc.
- Other materials: includes mulch, transplant fertilizer, pre-emergent, trash bags, etc.
- Purchasing: this charge depends on plant availability (ie, how many nurseries I have to visit to obtain the desired plants) and size of project. If you are on a budget this cost can be eliminated by purchasing the plants yourself.
- Labor: this charge can range from simply my fee to one assistant to up to four or more, depending on the size of the project and the timetable for completion. In general it is more efficient to hire additional help and finish a planting in one day.
- Debris removal: if debris can simply be bagged and put on the curb, this charge is included with labor; however, if your jurisdiction has no debris pickup and you cannot compost debris on your property, an hourly charge will be incurred for removal of debris.