



BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

August 2008




AUGUST LANDSCAPE GARDEN TIPS AND MORE!

- Reducing lawn size can significantly save you water. Consider eliminating hard to water areas like narrow strips or irregularly shaped areas.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses.
- Turf grasses need water when foot prints remain visible after grass is walked on. The over-all color may turn gray green also.
- Water lawns early in the morning on hot days. Set your sprinkler to produce large droplets instead of a fine mist to help prevent evaporation (1 inch per wk)
- Mow your lawn, removing no more than one third of the growth.
- Avoid deep cultivation in your flower beds during hot, dry days. This may reduce water uptake by increasing loss of soil water and damaging surface roots.
- This is the best time to purchase chrysanthemums when they become available. Choose ones that are just coming into bud.
- Don't let hybrid, annual flowers go to seed. This will weaken the plant and reduce blooms.
- Keep roots of lilies cool for best growth. You may have to mulch around the plants.
- Container-grown plants may need water several times a day. Avoid water stress which may cause nutrient leaching.
- Remove bedding plants that have finished blooming. Replace them with hardy annuals or mums.
- Replace container annuals that are past their prime with the new ones, mixing new soil with the old. Add a slow release fertilizer, following the manufacturer's instructions.



"Dirty hands, iced tea, garden fragrances thick in the air and a blanket of color before me, who could ask for more?"

*Bev Adams
Mountain Gardening*



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: FALL AND SPRING

- Now is a good time to plan for landscaping in the fall. Decide on what plants to purchase and where to plant them.
- Plan to rejuvenate or plant a new lawn in the fall.
- Late-blooming perennials such as Helianthus, Helennium, and Rudbeckia make great fall color.
- Start selecting your favorite bulb varieties as it is time to order them for fall planting.
- Select a site for spring flowering bulbs. For daffodils, dig the soil 12 inches deep in a sunny location, and work in fertilizer and compost.
- Plan changes in your perennial plantings. Autumn is the best time for moving and dividing perennials.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT SOUTH COAST BOTANIC

August 16 & 17: Dahlia Show & Sale: Sponsored by the South Coast Dahlia Society. Dahlias originated in Central America and are native from Mexico to Costa Rica. Plants were taken back to Europe by Spanish adventurers more than 200 years ago. Dahlias are easy to cultivate and are beautiful. The range of types, sizes and colors is spectacular. Sat. 12-4 p.m./Sun. 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

August 17: Parachute Express: Known as one of the premiere entertainers of children between the ages of one and ten years old, Parachute Express blends music and stage show into family entertainment. This is Parachute Express's 3rd return to the Garden. Bring a picnic and enjoy the music on the Upper Meadow. Tickets are \$5 for children and \$8 for adults (paid in advance). Garden opens at 4:30 p.m. and concert starts at 5:30 p.m.

August 2008 Landscape Maintenance Services Quarterly Report Card

Bennett Landscape values your continued patronage! In participating in this quarterly survey, you help let us know how we're doing. We continuously strive to not only meet your expectations, but to exceed them! If you could please take a moment to fill out our questionnaire, we will follow up with you and make sure any issues or requests you have will be taken care of in a timely manner. Your answers will aid us in our continuing effort to provide you with the best service possible. Upon return of this sheet, you will also be entered into our random drawing to receive 3 flats of seasonal color. Thank you!

Please rate the following: E = Excellent F = Fair P = Poor

Foreman: Attitude _____ Performance _____

Crew: Attitude _____ Performance _____

Job Performance Overall: _____

Responsiveness: _____

How are requests handled? _____

Communication: Crew _____

Supervisor _____

Office _____

Please answer the following:

What do we need to improve upon?

Any special requests for your crew?

Is there any other work you would like us to estimate at this time? (Tree trimming, irrigation, design, planting, masonry, lighting, fence, etc.) Please elaborate if possible.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

If you would like to have your monthly maintenance bills e-mailed to you, please contact 310-534-3543, ext. 101. Electronic payments are also available. If you are interested, please contact this same number.

Print Customer Name: _____

8 a.m.—5 p.m. Contact Telephone: _____

Cell Phone/Alternate #: _____

Property Address: _____

FERTILIZE AS YOU WATER!

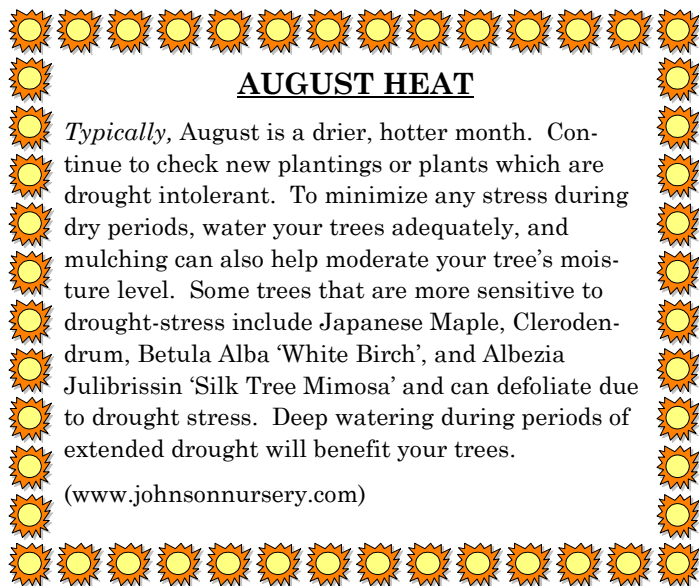
Do you want the greenest place on earth and be environmentally conscious also? EZ-FLO is a world leader in automatic fertilizer dispensing systems for residential and commercial applications. Using patented fluid-flow technologies, their equipment precisely delivers non-hazardous, water-soluble or liquid fertilizers and supplements through a hose, in-ground sprinkler or drip system automatically and effectively.

EZ-FLO main-line systems are designed to be connected directly to the irrigation piping, and when you do, you begin to “spoon-feed” all your plants every time you water without the danger of burning shrubs, flowers or trees. This also provides plants with a healthier root system that makes them stronger, more drought-tolerant, and less susceptible to insects and disease. Their patented flow process continually blends all elements of the fertilizer formula, creating even consistency throughout the delivery process. When lawns get more nitrogen than they can absorb, excess nitrogen migrates into the watershed. With almost 100% absorption of the fertilizer making it into the plant, there is very little that can run off.

You can choose the fertilizer that best suits your needs from their wide selection and you can mix different fertilizers together. By using EZ-FLO, you will reduce your needed fertilizer by 70-90%. EZ-FLO will also help you save water by stimulating plants to develop thicker, healthier root zones that in turn “trap and hold” water and nutrients which lessens evaporation loss. Independent studies have shown that this combination creates the ultimate water savings—up to 84%, and totally eliminates runoff.

Many schools are now using the EZ-FLO system because of the demand of their playing fields looking their best for their constant demand of events. Regardless of whom uses the product, the ones that do look their best throughout the whole year. For more information, go to www.ezflofertilizing.com.

Should you wish this revolutionary fertilizing dispenser, we would be glad to review your site conditions and provide you with a cost estimate.



AUGUST HEAT

Typically, August is a drier, hotter month. Continue to check new plantings or plants which are drought intolerant. To minimize any stress during dry periods, water your trees adequately, and mulching can also help moderate your tree's moisture level. Some trees that are more sensitive to drought-stress include Japanese Maple, Clerodendrum, Betula Alba 'White Birch', and Albezia Julibrissin 'Silk Tree Mimosa' and can defoliate due to drought stress. Deep watering during periods of extended drought will benefit your trees.

(www.johnsonnursery.com)