



You'll Value our Views!



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BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

DECEMBER 2009

Bennett Landscape's December

Holiday Schedule:

12/5 —Rolling Hills Estates Parade

12/25—Closed Christmas Day

12/31—Office closes at 3 p.m.

1/1 —Closed New Year's Day

Christmas Day will be made up by December 31, 2009. Any special arrangements can be made in advance during this holiday period.



POINSETTIA ORDERS

With the holidays fast approaching, purchase your Poinsettias **NOW**. The following prices include free delivery. Locally, add appropriate sales tax.

6" pots with red foil cover and red flower:

6 or less: \$11.50 each

7 or more: \$10.50 each



Call Nancy on ext. 105 to order.

Special points of interest:

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New Low Voltage Landscape Lighting

LED Lighting is a relatively new lighting technology. Although the LED was invented over 30 years ago, it has only recently been adapted to consumer and commercial lighting applications. With the recent interest in energy-efficient technology and an increase in energy costs, manufacturers have been popping up all over with LED lighting. However, the quality of the LED lighting products on the market is all over the map and technology is changing so fast it is hard to keep up. Halogen and LED landscape lighting products are available in varying levels of quality, so it is difficult to make generalized comparisons about performance. Assuming we are comparing a higher-end halogen and LED fixture, an LED will typically last up to 25 times longer. This means that the LED is about 40% more efficient. Although the cost of LED's is somewhat higher than the halogen, the cost of LED's is expected to continue to come down as their use increases. Industry experts who supplied input for this article suggest that roughly one-third of landscape lighting business is currently LED-based, and expect LED lighting to go above 90% for all of business applications in the next 3-5 years. (Xcellence 7/2009 issue)



Pervious Concrete Pavement

Pervious concrete pavement is a unique and effective means to address important environmental issues and support green, sustainable growth. By capturing storm water and allowing it to seep into the ground, porous concrete is instrumental in recharging groundwater, reducing storm water runoff, and meeting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) storm water regulations. In fact, the use of pervious concrete is among the Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended by the EPA and other agencies and geotechnical engineers across the country, for the management of storm water runoff on a regional and

local basis. This pavement technology creates more efficient land use by eliminating the need for retention ponds, swales, and other storm water management devices. In doing so, pervious concrete has the ability to lower overall project costs on a first-cost basis. In pervious concrete, carefully controlled amounts of water and cementitious materials are used to create a paste that forms a thick coating around aggregate particles. A pervious concrete mixture contains little or no sand, creating a substantial void content. Using sufficient paste to coat and bind the aggregate particles together creates a system of highly

permeable, interconnected voids that drain quickly. Typically, between 15% and 25% voids are achieved in the hardened concrete, and flow rates for water through pervious concrete are typically around 480 inches per hour, although they can be much higher. Both the low mortar content and high porosity also reduce strength compared to conventional concrete mixtures, but sufficient strength for many applications is readily achieved. While pervious concrete can be used for a surprising number of applications, its primary use is in pavement. Your results may vary depending upon native soil. (perviouspavement.org)

Warning! Is Phytophthora in Your Garden?

Following on the heels of the bark beetle and the red gum lerp psyllid, the phytophthora parasite is attacking a common plant many of us have in our gardens. The *Pittosporum undulatum* (or Victorian Box Tree), a low maintenance evergreen with creamy white fragrant orange-like blossoms, has been considered very hardy. Its inedible fruit looks like large orange peas. Although the cause is not yet certain, the disease is terminal. Symptoms appear as leaves turn brown and then drop, leaving barren branches. Transferring soil from infected sites can be a method by which the pathogen spreads and should be avoided. Spores can spread by wind, rain or sprinklers, splashing water and animals. Thus far, no pesticide has been effective in controlling the disease. Please note that another popular *Pittosporum*, the *tobira*, has not been affected. (PV News)

South Botanic Garden December Activities

5 & 6: Sat. & Sun.: Gingerbread House Workshops 11 a.m. or 2 p.m.
Sponsored by art2growon. Be the designer! Come decorate and create! All toppings on the house. Please call 310-625-6028 to reserve. Please arrive promptly to choose your very own Gingerbread House. Cost: \$55

13: Sun: Holiday Concert 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Performed by the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band., led by Maestro Grant Sevdayan. Let the sounds of the band put you in the holiday spirit! Performed in the Frances Young Hall. This is not a meadow/picnic concert, and there is no additional charge.

19: Sat. Gingerbread House Workshops 11 a.m. or 2 p.m.

SAME INFORMATION AS ABOVE.

Mixed Firewood

Available (while supplies last)

\$150 half-cord

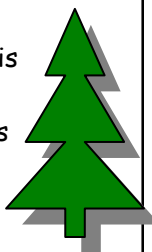
\$220 full-cord

Keep warm and cozy during the winter months! Ask a neighbor to share. Free delivery in the South Bay Area. Stacking is \$35 per hour.

Tree Trimming

The cold and wet season is the perfect time to have your trees trimmed. It is the only time of year we can trim Pine, Eucalyptus and White Birch trees.

Call today for your free estimate!



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