

December 2010

You'll Value our Views.



BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

DO YOU KNOW HOW YOUR PROPERTY DRAINS?

Merry Christmas
and Happy
New
Year!



Happy
Chanukah!



Gutters can easily get clogged with debris over the fall and winter months. Keeping your gutters clean will ensure that they are working properly and that they are keeping rainwater away from your house. This is a job for a competent professional, one who is capable of climbing a ladder and one high enough to reach the gutters. Once the gutters have been freed of debris, a steady stream of water should be run through each downspout until there is a steady

flow emerging at the bottom. If there is an obstruction, it will be cleared for you.

Bennett Landscape can do this task for you. This is a project you should schedule now if you experience a great amount of leaves falling on and around your house as they will clog your gutters. Don't wait until they overflow or backup. Please call our office today to set up a service call.

WHAT ARE PROPERTY CHANNEL DRAINS?

If you want to protect your decks, driveways, tennis courts, walkways and other areas of your property, channel drains should be installed. Channel drains are a type of surface drain. They can be made as long as necessary, since drain pieces can easily be joined together with coupling for longer areas. They are available in a wide range of materials, including concrete, fiberglass and plastic. Water enters these drains via grates, which are installed so they are level with the surface of the ground. They are available in many different colors, patterns, and materials, including brass, cast iron and plastic. Placing these drains in the correct location is crucial to ensure that they will function properly. Therefore, they should be placed at the location where rainwater typically flows and pools. Hardscape is built at a slight slope to allow water to

run off the surface more efficiently, and a channel drain should always be installed at the lowest point of this slope. The drain must be large enough to handle the amount of water flow that is likely to occur. This aspect is best left to a professional as using guesswork during this step may leave you with a channel drain that does not function the way it should. The lowest point of the slope will contain the drain pipe, and water entering it can be transported to the city's street gutter or it might be directed to a storage container for later use. Another great thing about channel drainage systems is that they also protect your house from water intrusion. Bennett Landscape can help you with this important task.

Please call our office to make an appointment.
(www.enhancescape.com)

Bennett Landscape December 2010 Holiday Schedule:

- The office will close at noon on Friday, December 24
- The office will close at 3 p.m. on December 31

Christmas Day will be made up by December 30th, 2010. Any special arrangements can be made in advance during this holiday period.

BENNETT LANDSCAPE NEWS- LETTER ANNOUNCEMENT

This December 2010 will be our last monthly newsletter. Thereafter, we will be distributing a quarterly newsletter, which will then include our Quarterly Maintenance Report Card.

MIXED FIREWOOD STILL AVAILABLE

Keep warm and cozy as the weather starts to get cold. Stock up on firewood in preparation for the upcoming holidays. Share with a Neighbor. Free delivery in the South Bay area (stacking at additional cost)
\$150 half-cord
\$220 full-cord
(While Supplies Last)

DECEMBER GARDENING TIPS

- * Place Christmas trees away from fireplaces, radiators, heat vents and anything else that could dry the needles. Keep your Christmas tree well watered from the time it is brought home until it is discarded.
- * House plants with large leaves and smooth foliage such as philodendrons, dracaena and rubber plant benefit if their leaves are washed with a damp cloth to remove dust.
- * Start reviewing and expanding your garden notes to help with next year's plans.
- * If you missed your scheduled dormant spray application, spray as soon as possible now. It is always better to apply late rather than wait for the next scheduled time. The second spray can be made anytime now through mid-January, before flowers and leaves emerge.
- * Prune fruit trees and vines later this month, but only when all of the leaves have fallen.
- * A home weather station that includes a minimum/maximum thermometer, a rain gauge and a weather log is especially beneficial at this time of year, like one by Weathermatic. The SmartLine controller is really two controllers in one. It can operate in Standard mode or switch to Auto Adjust mode by simply adding any SLW Series On-Site Weather Station for weather based watering schedules and rain/freeze sensing. See the following important features:
 - * There is a rain delay function to pause and automatically resume operation.
 - * The weather station can have an extended rain delay programmable from 0—99 hours.
 - * Zone-to-zone delay programmable timer for 1 minute to 3 hours.
 - * It adjusts automatically according to your zip code or latitude input ($\pm 60^\circ$ from Equator) to establish a location of site for solar radiation calculation.
 - * Sprinkler type input allows selection for zone sprinkler type (spray, rotor, drip, bubbler) with preset precipitation rate or specific input of the zone precipitation rate (.2—3.0" per hour).
 - * Plant type input allows selection for zone plant type (cool turf, warm turf, shrubs, annuals, trees & native).
 - * Soil type input allows selection for the soil type (clay, sand, loam) and slope ($0-25^\circ$) for the purpose of automatically calculating a run/soak period to virtually eliminate run-off.
 - * More/less is settable by zone (-50% to +25%) for the purpose of fine tuning Auto Adjust run times to accommodate factors like shade, wind, and sprinkler inefficiencies.
 - * Eliminates run-off by setting the maximum allowable run time and minimum soak time by program.

If you are interested in installing a Weather Station, please call our office for an estimate. We can assist you with obtaining your rebate. They are available at bewaterwise.com on a first-come, first-serve basis.

(www.smartline.com), (www.lancasterunl.edu)

LET US LIGHTEN UP YOUR HOLIDAY!

If you missed this article in last month's newsletter, we are running it again for your convenience in case you need our assistance with your Christmas lights. It's the most wonderful time of the year again. Bennett Landscape is offering Christmas Decoration Design and Installation. By having Bennett Landscape do your Christmas decorations this year, you will have more time to spend with family and friends. The design and installation includes ideas from string lights to decorations that will transform your home in time for the holidays. Our crews have the equipment to install lights and decorations on higher areas that you might not be able to reach, such as trees and the top of your house. Decorations and lights do not always have to be costly to keep on. There are choices such as LED lights

that not only save more energy than regular lights but also have a longer life span and better durability. On top of saving energy, they are much safer to use since they are much cooler because they use less power. This makes them safer to connect multiple strings of LED lights together without having to worry about overloading circuits, and they reduce the risk of fire and personal injury. You can have it set up on an automatic timer, so all you have to do is call us and just sit back, relax, and enjoy the holidays and your decorations. Please call our office to set up an appointment.



You still have time to order Poinsettias for the holidays!

POINSETTIA ORDERS

With the holidays quickly approaching, purchase your Poinsettias now. They provide a beautiful holiday touch to your interior or exterior property (these prices include delivery). Please 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

You can special order pink and white.
Call Nancy on ext. 105 to order.

Caring for Poinsettias

- * Keep poinsettias away from heat sources. They prefer indirect or filtered light—not direct sun. They like cool temperatures (60° to 70° during the day and $60-65^\circ$ at night).
- * Don't over water. When the top of the soil is just dry to the touch, remove any decorative foil, water plant in the sink and let them drain. Do not let stand in water-filled saucers.
- * Don't pick off faded leaves; let them fall off.