

January 2011

You'll **Value our Views.**

Points of Interest:

- * Bennett Landscape is being honored by the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce
- * **Quarterly Maintenance Report Card**
- * January Gardening tips
- * Planting Poinsettias
- * Firewood is Still Available
- * Re-Invent Your Driveway
- * Avoid West Nile Virus

Acclimating Poinsettias to Plant Outdoors

If you want to plant your poinsettias outdoors after the holidays, they need to be acclimated to the cold outdoors before planting them into the garden. First, clip overlong branches after the third node to encourage bushier growth. Place the plant in a sunny spot outdoors that is protected from wind for several hours each day and a cool spot indoors at night.

Keep its soil moist and feed it a slow-release or quarter-strength regular fertilizer every week or so. After a week or two, plants should survive a full day outdoors in the protected spot. After another month, they can be successfully transplanted into the garden.

(<http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/garden/tips>)



BETTER ENVIRONMENTS



SALUTATIONS TO BENNETT LANDSCAPE

Bennett Landscape is being recognized by the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce at the upcoming event, "Salute to Business" annual awards dinner being held February 3, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at Trump National Golf Club. Bennett Landscape is being honored for being the "Best Professional Business" by contributing to the quality of life on the peninsula. Sean is accepting this award on behalf of Bennett Landscape and its employees. Bennett Landscape has given back to the community by spon-

soring many public events in the Palos Verdes area and surrounding cities. Bennett Landscape has demonstrated professionalism in the services we provide, our great customer service and our commitment to outreach involvement. Sean contributes his company's success to a dedicated, hard-working, and loyal staff. He is happy to provide what he can to those in need and help sponsor those occasions he has a keen interest in. Sean is looking forward to receiving this award.

JANUARY GARDENING TIPS

- * Plant bare root fruit and nut trees (except citrus and avocados) through early March. Obtain trees that have well-developed fibrous root systems, a single well-shaped leader, and no serious bark injury. Avoid trees with circling or tangled roots.
- * It is time for another spraying of dormant oil for fruit trees, especially if this was not done last month or if it rained within two days of that application. The point is to have the sprayed material on the tree throughout the dormant season.
- * The next critical time for spraying is about mid-February, when the buds are swollen but don't yet show color. Spraying at the precise period of bud swell is critical. Before the buds swell is too early, and after the blossoms open is too late.
- * This is the big month for pruning deciduous fruit and nut trees. Basic guidelines for winter dormant pruning are to remove crowded or crossed branches, to open the center for good light exposure and airflow, to repair structural weakness, and to remove vigorous vertical growing branches. The height of the tree can also be reduced.
- * Plant ageratums, alyssum, bachelor's button, calendulas, candytuft, celosia, columbines, coreopsis, dianthus, pansies, California and Shirley poppies, salvia, snapdragons, sweet peas, and sweet William.
- * Prune crape myrtles severely to force growth of new flowering wood. Prune dormant deciduous flowering vines and shade trees. Wait to prune spring-flowering ornamentals until just after they bloom.
- * All soils can benefit from nutrient-rich compost and mulch. Healthy plant root growth and overall plant vigor depends on a moist and loose soil.
- * Apply a layer of mulch onto soil that is close to the house or in a window box to prevent mud from splattering during rain or sprinkling.

(<http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/garden/tips>)

January Landscape Maintenance Services Quarterly Report Card

Bennett Landscape values your continued patronage! We ask that you please participate in this quarterly survey. **We continuously strive to not only meet your expectations, but to exceed them! 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.** Upon return of this sheet, you will also be entered into our random drawing. ***This month, the winner of our drawing will receive 3 flats of seasonal color. To be included in our drawing, all report cards need to be received by January 23rd. We will publicly announce the winner in our April 2011 newsletter.*** Thank you!

Please rate the following: E = Excellent G = Good 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?

Check here if you want a site review with a supervisor. We will set up an appointment for you.
 Any special requests for your crew?

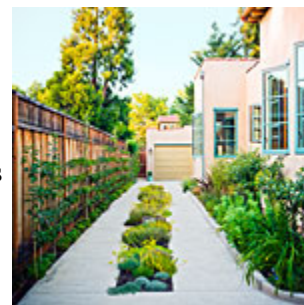
Is there any other work you would like us to estimate at this time? (Tree trimming, irrigation, design, planting, masonry, lighting, fencing, etc.) Please elaborate if possible.

Added Question: What other items or topics would you like to see in our monthly newsletter? We really want to know!

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Re-Invent Your Driveway

If you have a driveway you are not currently using, why not make it into something pretty to look at? A landscape architect replaced the solid driveway with twin ribbons of concrete and planted a new median strip with low-growing echiverias, dwarf daffodils, sedums and creeping thyme that cars can still drive over. Then, a pretty fringe was placed on both sides filling the house with ceanothus, coffee berry, daylilies, and other perennials. Along the fence was planted alpine strawberries and espallered apples and pears. Instead of a boring, bland space, the driveway now has life.



(www.sunset.com/garden/landscape-design)

Avoid the West Nile Virus

Due to the West Nile Virus, mosquito bites have become a real threat to public health. Bennett Landscape can help you clear your landscapes of mosquito breeding grounds. According to Vector Control, 80% of mosquito sources are in backyards. If these were eliminated, it would go a long way towards decreasing the spread of this deadly virus.

The most important thing you can do is eliminate standing water, the breeding ground for mosquitoes. Take the following steps:

- * Clean, chlorinate and aerate swimming pools regularly
- * Cover pools when they are not in use
- * Keep water features clean
- * Use "Bti," a bacteria that controls mosquito larvae
- * Aerate ponds
- * Do not bunch together a lot of aquatic plants
- * Stock mosquito fish in artificial ponds to eat the larvae. You can get them for free from most local municipalities
- * Correct landscape grading that is creating puddles
- * Check in hard-to-see places (under bushes and buildings)
- * Make sure gutters are clean and draining properly
- * Fix leaky irrigation
- * Monitor "sump pump" pits, dry wells or drainage basins
- * Fill hollow tree stumps with sand
- * Empty water from flower pots, birdbaths, pool covers, buckets, barrels and cans weekly. Change pet water daily

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) ***NEW SERVICE: For only \$5.95, we will deliver a bundle of wood, shrink-wrapped, directly to your doorstep (dimensions approximately 2' wide x 12"high), for those last-minute evening events. Call now and make a reservation!***