

BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

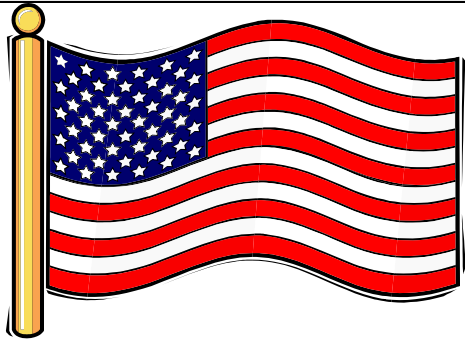
JULY 2010

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You'll Value our Views.



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



Bennett Landscape will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of the 4th of July Holiday.



**THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING
OUR QUARTERLY
MAINTENANCE QUESTIONNAIRE
ON PAGE 2!**

SOMETHING NEW TO KEEP YOU COOL THIS SUMMER

Mist Systems were originally introduced in the 1950's for cattle and poultry cooling. The concept has since expanded to include hundreds of specialty uses including humidification, dust and odor control, greenhouse propagation, specialty air filtration, fire suppression, heat suppression, special effects and more. These systems maintain ideal moisture content in the air and reduce dust, pollen, and other airborne pollutants. As a result, allergy symptoms may be greatly reduced. A quality system can establish this kind of environment for any outdoor area.

When selecting a patio misting system, remember that the higher the water pressure, the more effective the misting system will be. Using a high-pressure pump that operates

at 1000 psi is preferred for most residential systems and is an industry standard for all commercial and industrial applications. The quality of the pump and the appropriate design are priorities and will provide years of trouble-free operation with minimal maintenance, even in the most extreme outdoor conditions. Oversized motors and pumps provide more durability while the pulley design assures quiet operation, less vibration, and longer life.

Fogco has been the industry's leader for many types of misters.

Please call our office for an estimate for a misting system for your backyard.

(www.alumawoodllc.com)

JULY GARDENING TIPS

The following are suggestions for the month of July. Enjoy!

- Plant alyssum, celosia, cosmos, forget-me-nots, gazania, marigolds, nasturtiums, salvias, statice (sea lavender), vergena, and zinnias. Keep garden soil moist and mulched until they are established.
- Transplant fibrous begonia, calendula, chrysanthemums, crape myrtles, dahlias, daylilies, delphiniums, dianthus, foxgloves, hibiscus, hydrangeas, impatiens, penstemons, petunias, and salvias. Keep them shaded during the hottest portion of the day, and sprinkle the foliage several times a day for the first week after they are transplanted.

Then, gradually increase their

time in the direct sun over a week's time, when they should be able to withstand a full day's sun without drooping.

- Fill in garden gaps with summer-into-fall bloomers.
- Encourage repeat blooming by pinching or cutting back alyssum, coreopsis, crape myrtles, dahlias, delphiniums, dianthus, fuchsias, gaillardias, lobelia, marigolds, penstemons, petunias, rose of Sharon, salvias, and verbenas. Prune chrysanthemums and poinsettias for the last time to encourage them to bush out and keep the stems from becoming scraggly by autumn, unless you prefer a droopy or curly-stemmed display.

- Continue pruning spent blooms on roses weekly or so until fall, down to the first five-part leaf or a bit further to gently shape the plant. Then feed lightly and water. Maintaining this schedule will encourage continuous bloom throughout the season. Water only in the mornings to lessen mildew and disease problems.
- Continue to mow lawns at two or three inches in height to keep grass roots shaded. Grass that is cut too much in this hot month is susceptible to shock and sunburn.
- Heavily mulch cultivated areas and pathways with organic matter to cut down on

weeds and watering. It will also help keep plant roots cool. Replenish it as it deteriorates into the soil. Keep it from touching stems of plants and trunks of trees to allow good air circulation and avoid possible crown rot.

- Encourage birds into your garden to eat the harmful insects by providing whole sunflower seed heads. Hang the entire head in a clothes hanger on a tree limb, fence, or post, letting the birds pick their own.
- Plant a vegetable garden.
- Make sure weed and brush clearance is done before the hot weather of August to prevent fires.

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

July 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 July 23rd. We will publicly announce the winner in our August 2010 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?

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:

Print Customer Name: _____
 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Contact Telephone: _____
 Cell Phone/Alternate #: _____
 Property Address: _____

If you are interested in having your monthly maintenance bill or monthly newsletter e-mailed to you, please contact John on ext. 104.

Let's go green together!

The West Basin Water District is Ready to Help Again! WE ARE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU!

LARGE PROPERTIES—This Will be of Most Importance to YOU!

Thanks to a combination of federal, state, and local grants, West Basin is offering landowners with landscapes larger than **1 acre** within West Basin's service area a free, state-of-the-art "smart" sprinkler controller that irrigates based on the day's weather conditions. The goal is to address the current drought, reduce total water use and reduce runoff into the ocean.

If your property qualifies, a **free** controller will be installed on your property (the controller and installation are a \$1500 value). The "smart" sprinkler controller waters only when needed. They have a historical, weather-based function built into them and adjust to weather conditions using a live sensor. They are easy to program and operate. **At the time of installation, Bennett Landscape will be notified to be present for the installation.** They offer many benefits, i.e. the sensor shuts down the system during rain storms automatically; the user never needs to program or schedule the controller, the controller can handle up to 10 flow sensors, and the flow sensors will alert you when there is a broken sprinkler head. There is a five-year warranty on this controller.

This program is free and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Installation prices may apply as well as the web-based ET monitoring service. The percentage of savings that was quoted to us is 10-25 percent savings on your water bill per year. **This will be a substantial savings especially for those with large, landscaped areas. Please call Marty for more detailed information.**

Call 949-305-9063 to set up your free survey. If you have signing authority on your board of directors, you are the person who needs to make the appointment.

Alternate programs will be provided in future newsletters.

What is Xeriscaping?

The word Xeriscaping is often used to describe this landscaping philosophy. Xeric is Greek for requiring little water. The term xeriscaping originated in Denver, Colorado, in the 1980's and is used to describe water-conserving landscape techniques and practices. Xeriscaping is not just for arid climates. It is also being practiced from Florida to Canada. So no matter where you live, you can apply Xeriscape principles.

The perfect plan would have at least a year's worth of data on sun and shade patterns by season, prevailing winds, and average rainfall. If you don't have a year to spare, here are the basics:

- Determine north, south, east and west.
- Take note of sunny and shady spots. Create and use shade.
- Identify slopes and drainage patterns.

Test and improve your soil. Determine the pH level needed for your desired plants. Add compost, peat moss, or other amendments as recommended by the soil test results. Better soil improves moisture retention and oxygen supply. Water penetrates deeply into the soil to promote a strong root system that helps plants survive dry conditions. Use organic cover mulch to maintain soil temperature, improve water retention, prevent runoff, and control competition from water-depleting weeds.

One key to water-wise landscaping is the use of native or indigenous plants. These plants have adapted to your area. For more information, please call our office for a xeriscaping idea for your property. (www.lowes.com)