

You'll Value our Views.

# BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

JUNE 2010  
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TRY THE DIFFERENCE!

## HAPPY GRADUATION!



## HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SUMMER JUNE 21!



Bennett Landscape just purchased and is testing some new, battery-powered lawn mowers. The Neuton CE 6 is an innovative gardening tool. Unlike other electric lawn mowers, this cordless mower comes with a detachable 36-volt battery. This mower gives you the performance of a gas mower, but there is no gas, no oil to spill and no engine emissions to pollute the air. It is also light-weight, but sturdy. In fact, it is stronger than steel. This mower is very quiet; so quiet that the crew never needs to wear hearing protection. No more second trips around the lawn to clean up

walkway edges or to trim around fence posts. The trimming/edger switch instantly changes the mower blade to a trimmer/edger. We can change the height of all four wheels at once and with one touch of a lever. There are four different mowing heights ranging from 1.2 inches to 3 inches to suit your grass conditions. Another unique quality of this mower is the blade is creatively designed with extra air lift to make grass stand up straight for a cleaner, more even cut. For yours and our benefit, we can decide how we want to deal with the grass clippings. The rear grass bag

or side discharge chute can be used to hold the clippings or a mulching plug can be used leaving the nutrients on your lawn! The best part about this mower is it has so much power that it can cut your grass, even if it is tall or wet. This mower is also safe, using a security key to prevent accidental or unauthorized use. If you are interested, please inquire about using these new mowers on your property. A slight increase in your monthly maintenance bill may be necessary. We are working together in helping the county of Los Angeles and surrounding areas go clean and green.  
(www.kokeytechnology.com)

## THE MONTH OF JUNE IS FIRE SEASON

The month of June is very dry. The rains have stopped for some time now and fire season is upon us. Because the entirety of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and surrounding cities are a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, LACFD requires 200 ft. of defensible space; the space where firefighters can take a stand to stop a fire. The property owner is responsible for maintaining this space. The primary cause of destruction of homes by wildfires is ignition from flying embers. These embers may originate in vegetation surrounding the home or from a more distant but powerful fire whose wind-driven embers drop into dry fuel on or around structures. Vegetation, including landscaping, can produce intense fire behavior that can also doom a structure. Reducing the volume of vegetation

that is apt to burn decreases the fire intensity so your house is more likely to survive. Maintaining an "ignition-free zone" surrounding the structure increases its survivability. Here are some requirements of the Los Angeles Fire Department:

- If you have not already done so, dead material that drapes over ground cover needs to be removed yearly. This includes leaves, bark and branches.
- Cut grass and weeds within 200 ft. from the structure to a height of less than 3 inches yearly. Mow under the tree to 6 feet from drip line of tree canopy. Re-cut the grass if late season rain promotes grass growth after first cutting. Cutting native grass and wildflowers may be delayed

until seed set, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire to any structures.

- Remove from mature trees all vines, loose papery bark, all dead branches smaller than 3 inches in diameter to 8 feet from the ground. If the entire tree is dead, remove the tree.
- Remove all dead branches from shrubs and immature trees.
- Remove dead material from roof, gutters, deck, patios, etc.
- Trees and large tree form shrubs, e.g. sugar bushes, toyon, and myoporum need to be pruned to provide clearance of 3 times the height of the understory material or 8 feet, whichever is higher. Limbs which are higher than

3 inches in diameter need to be pruned up to 8 feet off the ground, and in young trees, the lower one-third of the height of the tree needs to be trimmed.

Don't wait to be cited by the fire department or risk a possible fire. Call our office to receive a proposal for brush clearance and vegetation maintenance in order to prevent a fire. For further implementations for the city of Rolling Hills, please call (310) 377-1521. For other cities, please call your own City Hall to find out your fire restrictions. To contact the Forestry Division, e-mail Robert Walton [rowalton@fire.lacounty.gov](mailto:rowalton@fire.lacounty.gov).  
(County of Los Angeles Fire Department)

**JUNE 2010 GARDENING TIPS**

- Plant lavender, marjoram, rosemary, sage, savory and thyme. They do fine in hot sun, but need well-drained soil with minimal fertilizer.
- Plant basil, chives, cilantro, and parsley. These prefer rich soil with frequent watering.
- Thin fruits on trees and vines to what you realistically expect to consume. Keep sides of trees balanced for more complete development and less strain on trees, especially on those bearing fruit for the first or second time.
- Put netting on fruit trees two or three weeks before the fruit begins to ripen to discourage birds from making a habit of visiting the tree. Tie loose ends of the netting so birds don't get trapped inside.
- Paint tree trunks with a light-colored indoor latex paint to prevent sunburn damage, which then invites borers and fungus infections.
- Finish trimming citrus trees.
- Keep citrus and avocados well-watered, deeply, every two or three weeks.
- Add an inch thick layer of mulch to maintain uniformly cool temperatures.
- Feed fruit trees approximately every three weeks during their growing season with a half or quarter dose of fertilizer to encourage growth.
- Sow or transplant alyssum, coreopsis, cosmos, foxgloves, gazanias, marigolds, salvias, statice, campanula, dahlias, marguerite, Shasta daisies, dianthus, dusty miller, geraniums, hostas, ice-plant, impatiens, lantanas, lavenders, lobelias, daisy, penstemons, periwinkles and petunias.
- For fragrance, plant gardenias and jasmine.
- For color in shady areas, plant begonias, coleus, impatiens and lobelia.
- Stake tall-growing dahlias, delphiniums and lilies.



**Quarterly Maintenance Evaluation Survey**

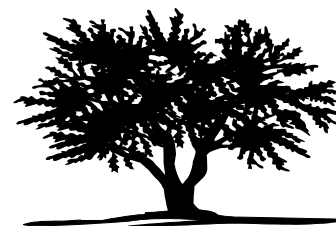
Thank you for taking the time to submit these surveys. They really do help us to do a better job on your property. April's responses were the most we have had in quite some time. Here is what our clients are saying:

- "Bennett Landscape does a great job. We have a great crew."
- "We like how you handle our requests."
- "There is nothing you need to improve on."
- "I am very pleased with the crew. They are thorough, efficient, and friendly."
- "You have a great tree crew."
- "The crew and foreman do an excellent job."
- "The crew and Supervisor are excellent. They do as good a job when I'm away as when I'm here. They do a great job."
- "The landscape around my home is excellent."
- "My crew is excellent."
- "I am happy with my crew and supervisor. They do a good job."
- "I wouldn't change a thing!"

**SUMMER TREES TO TRIM**

It is time to start trimming your summer trees. The following is a list of most of trees to trim in the summer time starting in June:

- Brazilian Pepper, Carrotwood, Coral, Ficus Benjamina, Ficus Elastica, Ficus Nitida, Melaleuca, New Zealand Christmas, Olive, Pittosporum, Podocarpus, Queen Palm, Schefflera, Jacaranda, and Yucca.



**OUTDOOR DECORATING**

Savvy homeowners don't end their decorating at the door, they keep going to include the decks, porches, sunrooms, and patios that surround their homes. They treat these spaces as outdoor "rooms" that deserve the attention the other rooms in their homes receive. They choose the best furnishings, colors, textures, and lighting for the space. The result is additional living area that is often the favorite room in the house. Look at your outdoor space through windows and doors and consider extending the interior style to the outside space. Bright colors will stop your eyes at the porch, while muted ones will allow you to focus first on garden focal points, such as a magnificent bush, tree or flower bed. Plan outside furnishings so that they augment a good view instead of blocking it. Once you have a furniture style in mind, develop a plan that defines the function of the space and determines what you will need. Consider what's needed for conversational sitting, entertaining, dining, cooking, playing and sunbathing.

As graduation quickly approaches, now is the time to make those last minute improvements, installations, etc. to get ready for those celebrations and parties. Please call our office for a free estimate with ideas!

([www.landscapeideas.co](http://www.landscapeideas.co))

**Graduation Quotes**

- "A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business." **Henry Ford**
- "A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds." **Francis Bacon**
- "All of our dreams can come true...if we have the courage to pursue them." **Walt Disney**
- Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else." **Judy Garland**
- "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." **Nelson Mandela**
- "Graduation day is tough for adults. They go to the ceremony as parents. They come home as contemporaries. After twenty-two years of child-raising, they are unemployed." **Erma Bombeck**
- "Hitch your wagon to a star." **Ralph Waldo Emerson**
- "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." **Milton Merle**
- "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." **Les Brown**
- "Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." **Winston Churchill**
- "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." **Eleanor Roosevelt**