

BETTER ENVIRONMENTS



MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

BENEFITS OF USING BENNETT LANDSCAPE

“Our customers are the heart and soul of our business. We appreciate each and every one of you!”



1. We have over 25 years of experience, maintain and educate our employees, and we produce quality work!
2. We give exceptional service. We are prompt, reliable, and accessible—a one-stop shop!
3. We provide specialized services; i.e., masonry, hardscape, retaining walls, sprinkler irrigation systems and custom projects.
4. We have a good safety record, thus keeping our cost stable yet competitive.
5. We are a leader in the industry, using the latest equipment and technology!
6. We are environmentally aware! We have knowledge of the latest water-saving equipment, energy saving equipment, and we promote integrated pest management and water resource management services.
7. We are also a Corporate Citizen! We sponsor several events at the Norris Theatre and have made many contributions to different non-profit organizations.
8. We strive to be the best value for your money spent.
9. We have completed many award-winning projects for our beautiful landscape maintenance and installation.
10. We have a State contractor's license; we pay our city business licenses, we have liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance, and we provide employee training.

In order to maintain our quality of work in the face of rising prices of fuel, landscape products, and insurance, it necessitates a cost of living adjustment of 3% this year. We hope this will meet with your understanding.

Tasks for the Month of May

- Early weeding and removal in beds and borders will save you excessive weeding in months to come. Mulching with bark or gravel after weeding is recommended
- Lightly trim spring flowering heathers
- Trim ornamental grass
- Deadhead daffodils and allow their leaves to die naturally
- Sow new lawn areas
- Position stakes for tall border perennials
- Leave the bougainvilleas in full sun and fertilize them regularly with hibiscus food and soluble fertilizer
- Use a weekly spray program to protect your roses from insects and black spot. Alternate fungicide and insecticide on alternate weeks
- Do not heavily prune your trees in April, May and June. This is the time of year when trees deplete their energy reserves and put most of it into new leaves
- Treat your lawn now for lush, healthy growth all summer. Overseed patchy spots
- Pay attention for diseases and fungal pathogens which are very active due to high humidity from spring rains
- Do not excessively cut your spring-flowering shrubs, and cut only where it is necessary to control size
- Plan to add edging plants to borders and walkways. Good annuals include ageratum, alyssum, dusty miller, petunias, lobelia, phlox, nasturtiums, marigolds and salvia
- Plant dahlias and stake as you go to avoid damaging roots later
- Cut-back weathered geraniums

25889 Belle Porte Avenue, Harbor City, CA 90710 · Office: 310-534-3543 · Fax: 310-534-3176

E-mail: BennettLandscape@cox.net · Website: www.bennett-landscape.com

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WHEN TO HIRE A PRO TO DO YOUR TREE TRIMMING

This is a big question. Should a homeowner hire a professional to do the tree work or get out there and do it themselves?

Remember, the balance of a tree or a tree limb can be difficult to judge. While the task at hand may appear simple, tree work is a very dangerous profession. **Absolute Rule: If there is a power line nearby, consult a professional.** Power lines and inexperienced, untrained workers do not mix. It is easier to physically disconnect and drop the line than to replace connections and repair damage after the tree falls the wrong way, assuming you survive the incident and are able to repair the damage.

If the job requires a ladder, a consultation with a professional may be in order. Why?

When working from a ladder with a hand saw, chainsaw, or even a pole pruner, much of the necessary pruning cannot be accomplished, and often the tree will end up being "lion's tailed." Lion's tailing leaves a tree with a reduced canopy, thus reducing its ability to photosynthesize. Professionals, on the other hand, will enter the tree with climbing gear (rope and saddle, not spikes) and/or use a boom truck with a bucket to reach the tree top and branch ends.

If you think the job requires a chainsaw, consulting a

professional is recommended. Why?

Chainsaws are tools for trained, experienced hands. Untrained operators often do more harm than good to both the tree and the operator. Most of the pruning that a tree needs can and should be accomplished with a "hand" pruner or pruning saw.

If you have storm damaged trees, consult a professional. Why?

A damaged tree may be able to stay in the landscape safely for years to come. Professionals are trained to understand how a damaged tree will respond to treatment and most importantly inform you if the tree can safely remain in the

landscape.

Thus, out of necessity, we need to care for our trees, not only so they are pleasing to look at, but so they remain healthy, safe features in our landscape. (Yard & Garden Line News)



28TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY HEALTH FOUNDATION

The 28th Annual Golf Classic is being sponsored by the Little Company of Mary Community Health Foundation and Trinity Care Hospice Foundation. The event is on May 19 at the Palos Verdes Golf Club and the Rolling Hills Country Club. For details contact Erin Harms (310) 303-5346.



The winner of the random drawing will be announced in the June 2008 Newsletter.

May is Fire Season!

Recommendations are as follows:

- Clear away all combustible material, especially grass, weeds, leaves, needles, and tree branches to at least 100 yards of house and 200 yards in high-hazard areas.
- Trim grass and weeds to 3 inches or less, cut back over-grown branches that are closer than 6 feet to the ground and 5 feet to the roof.

Nature Walk for May

May 10: 9-11:00 a.m.
Sacred Cove Trail: Situated between Portuguese Point and Inspiration Point in Rancho Palos Verdes, this small cove features unusual rock formations edged with tide pools and a deep water channel into a sea cave. Moderate to strenuous.

Are there Mosquitoes on Your Property?

The Los Angeles West Vector Control District reports that it is important to eliminate standing water conditions on your property to abate mosquito breeding. For help and more information, please call (310) 915-7370. The district will furnish mosquito fish free of charge for fountains or ponds.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SELECT THE RIGHT TREES FOR YOUR LOCATION:

Putting the right trees in the right places can dramatically reduce the costs of pruning and maintenance in your landscape and provide a shade canopy/screening from the hot summer sun and save heating or cooling energy.

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★ **In observance of** ★
★ **Memorial Day. We will** ★
★ **be closed Monday,** ★
★ **May 26, 2008.** ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



SPRING CLEAN-UP May 10th

Household and hazard waste materials such as toxic wastes, explosives, latex or oil based paints, pesticides, thinners, poisons, lubricants, etc. may be disposed on Saturday, **May 10th from 9:00—3:00 p.m.** at the Rancho Palos Verdes, City Yard, 30940