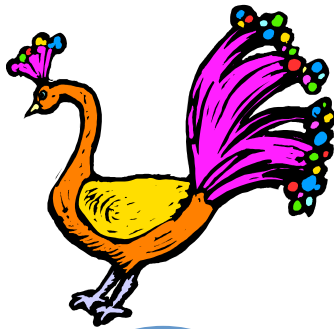




BETTER ENVIRONMENTS



PRETTY TO LOOK AT/A DANGER TO YOUR GARDEN

Remember

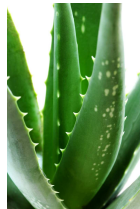
Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10, 2009. Indulge yourself in some color for the holiday!

While the peacocks are a beautiful addition to your landscape, they however, are also a great nuisance. It is possible to maintain a beautiful garden and live harmoniously with the peacocks.

The following is a list of plants you CAN plant in your garden that peacocks dislike:

- Agapanthus
- Azalea
- Baby's Breath
- Bird of Paradise
- Bougainvillea
- Butterfly Plant
- Cactus
- Camellia
- Cannas
- Clivia
- Columbine
- Coneflower
- Ferns
- Fuchsia
- Gaillardia
- Gardenia
- Geranium
- Giant Columbine
- Gladiola
- Gloriosa Daisy
- Hibiscus
- Hardy Lavender
- Hostas
- Iris
- Ivy
- Lantana
- Lavender
- Marigold
- Mint
- Mum
- Oleander
- Painted Daisy
- Periwinkle
- Peonies
- Phlox
- Pink Lady
- Plumbago
- Poinsettia
- Pyracantha
- Rhododendron
- Rose
- Snap Dragon
- Weigela



By taking a little extra effort by changing out some of your plants, it is possible to have a nice garden and enjoy the beauty of the unique peacock.

Please call us if you would like an estimate to change out some of your plants.

WELCOME, HOWARD, OUR NEW IN-HOUSE LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

We have brought aboard Howard Takeuchi, our new in-house landscape designer. Howard has 23 years of experience in landscape design and construction and is a licensed contractor.

Howard's specialties are his organizational skills and his ability to budget jobs. He drafts and designs detailed working drawings of all phases of landscape and hardscape, inclusive of various types of concrete, stone, wood structures, water features,

irrigation and plant materials.

Howard's personal strengths in customer service and customer satisfaction stem from his previous experience in human relations.

We welcome his planning and organizational skills and his high standard of performance.

Please call our office if you are interested in making an appointment for a landscape design, ext. 305.

LOADED OATMEAL/CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES—YUM YUM!

- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- 1/4 cup wheat germ
- 2 oz. dark chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. In a large mixing bowl, beat butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add brown

sugar, granulated sugar, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt. Beat until combined, scraping sides of bowl occasionally. Beat in egg and vanilla until combined. Beat in flour. Stir in rolled oats, wheat germ, and chocolate. 2. Drop dough by rounded teaspoons 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets and bake for 9-11 minutes or until tops are lightly browned. Let cookies cool for 1 minute, then transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool.

(Better Homes & Gardens)

Watch that Water

The city of Torrance has already started enforcing restrictions on water usage. The Torrance City Council unanimously enacted a sweeping measure intended to fundamentally and permanently change how residents of the South Bay's largest city consume water.

The dozen prohibitions range from requiring all fountains or decorative water features to use re-circulated water to banning all watering of gardens or lawns from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Most restrictions take effect immediately and apply to all city residents, including those served by the private

California Water Service Co. "Living in the semi-arid region that we do, it's promoting responsible water usage for all of us," said Public Works Director, Rob Beste. "But the key to this is a permanent water-conservation requirement, not just in times of drought."

In contacting other local cities, Rolling Hills Estates has implemented similar restrictions. The mayor, Judith Mitchell, signed Resolution No. 2189 dated April 7, 2009, making it official. Soon, all pertinent information regarding water usage changes will be posted on the city website

at www.ci.rolling-hills-estates.ca.us.

The city of Palos Verdes Estates, Public Works Department says, "Water restrictions may happen."

The Green Garden Program, directed by Teri Boughn, has been established and is sponsored by the West Basin Water District and the Metropolitan Water District. They are offering free landscape-irrigation surveys. **If your sprinkler system is working properly**, you can qualify for a free new Weathermatic LS1600 controller and 10 free water-conserving nozzles. If you have two con-

trollers, you qualify for 2 new controllers, etc. This will save YOU money on your water bill and conserve water at the same time. You can research the Weathermatic products by going to their website at www.weathermatic.com.

Please contact Adriana at 866-861-0784 or you may e-mail her directly at Adriana@econservation.com to set up the survey.

If you require any repairs so you may qualify for this great offer, please call us for a service appointment.

(Partial Daily Breeze 3/31/09)



ROMEO & JULIET

July 23-26, 2009

Join Shakespeare Festival/LA for the **20th Annual Bard in the**

Garden at the South Coast Botanic Garden.

Doors open at 6 p.m.

For ticket information, please call 213-481-2273, exclusively for members only!

The Benefits of Landscape

- Landscape is one of the best ways to increase property value. According to a Gallup Organization Study, an attractive landscape can increase the value of a home anywhere from 7 to 15 percent! It also reduces time on the market by 5 to 6 weeks!
- Landscaping can bring a recovery value of approximately 100-200 percent at selling time. Whereas, kitchen remodeling brings about 75-125 percent, bathroom remodeling 20-120 percent, and the addition of a swimming pool 20-50 percent recovery rate.
- Nothing will appreciate more in value than a tree. A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 according to the Council of Tree and Landscape appraisers.

May Gardening Tips

Spring is winding down and summer's just around the corner. Here's the last burst of garden chores to get done before serious heat sets in.

- Plant your marigolds.
- Continue to plant warm-season annual flowers and vegetables.
- Keep up with watering. Even highly drought-tolerant plants can need irrigation.
- Prune winter and spring flowering trees and shrubs once they stop blooming.

- Deadhead facing flower blossoms. You'll keep your garden neater and flowering better longer.
- Mulch matters: apply a layer of mulch on flower beds and around trees and shrubs 2-3 inches around the base of plants. It reduces weeds, conserves moisture, and prevents disease.
- Keep harvesting vegetables when they're young and tender.
- Fertilize your lawn.
- Fertilize roses, citrus trees,

fuchsias, avocado trees, vegetables, and flowers.

- Keep an eye out for yellow or pale leaves with green ribs—a sign of iron chlorosis. Apply chelated iron according to package directions.
- Clean up fallen fruit from citrus and other fruit trees.
- Keep mowing regularly. It's the best thing you can do to control weeds and keep grass thick and healthy.

(www.bhg.com)

Free Smart Landscape Expo

West Basin Municipal Water District in cooperation with the California Landscape Contractors Association and the South Bay Environmental Services Center is hosting this event on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Expo will feature Smart Garden options for Southern California and will be held at Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility, 1935 S. Hughes Way, El Segundo. Call 310-371-7222 or visit www.sbesc.com