



BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The winner for this quarter's maintenance report card drawing is Pat Vancura. She will receive three flats of seasonal color. Congratulations!

It's time to clean out your garage and/or gardener's shed. The PV Peninsula's next Annual Household Hazardous Waste/Electronics Waste Roundup will be at the following location and time:

Saturday, May 8, 2010, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall/City Yard
30940 Hawthorne Boulevard, RPV

Weekly Disposal Opportunity: Additionally, there is a convenient and free weekly option for the proper disposal of HHW/E-Waste. There is a local, permanent household hazardous waste and electronics waste collection facility open to all LA County residents. It is located in the neighboring City of San Pedro at the following address:

The Gaffey SAFE Collection Center
1400 N. Gaffey Street
San Pedro

Open every Friday, Saturday & Sunday
From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Waste Management and Universal Waste Systems pick up unwanted electronics at curbside free of charge. However, you must call customer service first and schedule an electronic/bulky item pick-up. Please call **Waste Management Contact No.: (800) 774-0222** or **Universal Waste Systems Contact No.: (800) 631-7016**. If your item is in usable condition, please first contact a charity, for example the Salvation Army (800_958-7825, Goodwill (562) 435-7741, United Cancer Research Society (800) 443-4224, or St. Vincent de Paul (800) 974-3571. Research Society (800) 443-4224, or St. Vincent de Paul (800) 974-3571. Not only will your unwanted items help a needy person or a good cause, but it will also help the city meet state mandates by reducing the trash going to landfills. It can also be a tax deduction.

For additional information, visit the County website www.lacsd.org or call 1-888-CleanLA.

Holidays:

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 9: Mother's Day

May 15: Armed Forces Day

May 24: Victoria Day

May 31: Memorial Day

The office will be closed Monday, May 31 to observe Memorial Day.

New Wall Trellis by Tournesol

If you have a wall or side of house you would like to cover or hide with plant foliage, there is something new that can be done. We can install a living wall module which integrates into a 3-D living-wall trellis. It combines the full coverage of a living wall with the low cost of a trellis. The VertiGreen Hybrid is made of recycled plastic set into a 3-D trellis and made of recycled steel wire that is zinc coated. Vines and climbing plants grow quickly in the soil-filled module because there are no internal separations to restrict root growth. Although the module makes 20% of the trellis area, it is positioned so plants only need to grow 12" to achieve full coverage. This wall trellis can also act as a sound barrier. The smallest size is 48 x 48 inches. The area behind the module would have to be waterproofed. Please go to the website at www.tournesolsiteworks.com for more information. If you are interested in this possibility, please call our office to schedule an appointment!

Meet Brian, our Assistant Estimator

Brian Dreiling has been working here for over a year. Brian graduated from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona with a BS in Landscape Irrigation Science. His desire was to seek a career in the technical field of irrigation and water conservation. Brian had four years of experience prior to finding his way to Bennett Landscape. Brian reads and evaluates blue prints and specifications and produces rough estimates for the many residential, commercial, and public works projects we bid on. Brian also has designed efficient irrigation systems for current projects using the Auto CAD program. He has studied Drip Irrigation, Soil Science, Landscape Management, and General Botany, just to name a few courses. There is basically no down time for him! He has received certificates such as Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor and Toro's Basic SitePro Training program. Brian is a hard worker and a conscientious employee.



May Gardening Tips

- Plant citrus and other tender trees. Keep the soil well-mulched to hold in moisture with fewer waterings. Too little water results in stunted growth and reduced fruiting.
- Remove or roughly cut the fruit tree “suckers” or “water sprouts” growing on the tree. They are competing for water and nutrients.
- Feed fruit trees that are actively growing. They’ll provide a good leaf canopy with these additional nutrients.
- Plant alyssums, bougainvilleas, campanula, candytufts, chrysanthemum, coleus, coral bells, coreopsis, cosmos, English daisy, gloriosa daisy, marguerite and Shasta daisies, dahlias, delphiniums, dianthus (pinks and sweet William), foxgloves, gaillardias, gazanias, geraniums, hosta, impatiens, lantanas, lobelias, silver dollar plant, marigolds, penstemons, periwinkle (vinca), petunias, primroses (primula), rosemary, salvias, statice (sea lavender) sunflowers, and sweet peas, just to name a few.
- In dense to medium shade, plant begonias, coleus and impatiens. In light shade with partial sun, plant ageratum, lobelia, and salvias.
- Blooming shrubs that require little water when they are mature include abelia, bottlebrush, broom, ceanothus, cotoneaster, crape myrtle, grevillea, oleander, pittosporum, pyracantha, and raphiolepis.
- For fragrance, plant citrus, gardenia, jasmine, mock orange, and roses.
- Start tuberous begonia bulbs in a sandy compost mixture in filtered sun and keep them well-watered from the bottom. Other bulb-type plants to start include amaryllis, caladium, calla lily, dahlia, and gladiolus.
- Plant cactus, succulents, and palms. Water to settle them in well, but allow the soil to dry out between future waterings.
- Cut back spring-blooming shrubs and vines, including clematis and wisteria to shape them and promote flowering wood development for next year.
- For bushier mums with lots of blooms for this fall, pinch back stems after each six inches of growth. Continue pinching until July, then let growth develop naturally, staking as desired.
- Mow lawns once or twice a week. Set mower blade height between two and three inches. Don’t cut off more than 25 percent of new growth at a time.
- Keep lawn fertilized with a slow-release fertilizer just enough to grow well.
- Increase lawn watering patterns. Let the grass tell you when it needs to be watered. It will wilt slightly and turn from bright green to dull green. Continue to water deeply to thoroughly moisten the soil down to the bottom root tips (6—12 inches deep). This will allow the surface of the soil to dry between waterings and encourage deep rooting, so the lawns are healthier and can go longer between waterings. Consider making an appointment with one of our certified water managers.
- Every week or so until fall, prune the spent blooms on roses down to the first five-part leaf or a bit further to gently shape the plant. Feed it lightly and water. Also prune out shoots from the rootstocks below the grafts and twiggy growth, especially in the center of the plant for better air circulation. Water only in the mornings, so water on the foliage will dry before sunset, lessening mildew and other disease problems.
- Maintain a good mulch of organic matter covering garden soil throughout the summer. (www.celosoangeles.ucdavis.edu)

Bring in the LadyBugs

Ladybugs are useful insects that actually help decrease other insects, such as Aphids. Aphids are the ladybugs’ favorite food. If you want to attract more ladybugs to your garden to help with aphid problems, you can plant fennel, dill, cilantro, caraway, angelica, wild carrot, and yarrow, just to name a few.



Providence Little Company of Mary Foundation Special Event, MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010

At the 30th annual Golf Classic, golfers will tee off at the Palos Verdes Golf Club, playing either a morning or afternoon flight. Enjoy a hosted cocktail reception, dinner, silent and live auction and a trophy presentation. Please contact the Foundation at 310-303-5340 for more information.

S O U T H C O A S T B O T A N I C G A R D E N A C T I V I T I E S

May 2: Epiphyllum Show & Sale, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Sponsored by the South Bay Epiphyllum Society. As early as 1940, Epi’s were relatively unknown; carried by only a few nurseries and very expensive. Now they are widely cultivated. Their true origins have never been fully understood. Blooms are very fragrant and come in many colors. Epiphyllum society members will be on hand to answer your questions. Plants will be available for purchase.

May 9: Palos Verdes Symphonic Band Mother’s Day Concert, 2:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.—

What a treat for mom! Bring mom to tour the garden and then stop in the hall to hear the band. Picnic benches are located outside the garden gates.

May 15 & 16: Geranium Show & Sale, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Sponsored by the South Bay Geranium Society. Geranium is a genus of 422 species of flowering plants also known as cranesbills. Originating in South Africa, true Geranium species are cold-hardy plants, unlike their hybridized cousins Pelargonium. Specialty vendors will be offering unusual and hard-to-find plants. Will include a lecture on the care and cultivation at 11 a.m.

May 22 & 23: Bonsai Show, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Bonsai is the art of dwarfing trees or plants and developing them into aesthetically appealing shapes by grooming, pruning, and training them in containers according to prescribed techniques. Bonsai originated in China over 1,000 years ago. It is an ancient art. Society members will be selling pre-bonsai trees, moss balls, pots, tools, etc.

Please call 310-544-1948 for more information.

HAVE A HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

