



JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Professional Landscape Management

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FROST & ORNAMENTALS

It has been a few years now since we had a hard freeze or frost. This year we have already had some very cold temperatures that have damaged plants. Fortunately, most of the desert trees and plants will grow back after the frost damage is removed. Most of the foliage will be left to help insulate the plant until mid February.

For your plants at home, you can use Christmas lights or clear plastic to help keep your plants from getting frost damage. Remember not to walk on the grass when there is frost present. This could kill the grass and leave your footprints as a reminder all winter.

BACKFLOW THEFT ON THE RISE

For quite some time we enjoyed the reduction in backflow thefts but it seems their popularity is back on the rise. The backflow is a device that restricts landscaping water back into the main water supply. For instance, if chemicals or fertilizer is applied to a landscape area and there was a drop in pressure from the supply side, those chemicals could be sucked into the main water supply poisoning the water. That is why it is very important that your backflow is working properly.

This large, mostly brass, part is very expensive and can be sold to someone for scrap metal or for even more money to someone not concerned that the part has been stolen. To protect this from happening, a pad and cage should be installed. While this too can be rather expensive, it is less than continually replacing the valves. As a note some insurance will not pay for the replacement unless the backflow is properly caged.

If your backflow has been stolen, refer back to your backflow inspection records for the serial numbers. This will help when filing your police and insurance reports.

THIS MONTH IN LANDSCAPING

On our web site at www.AssetLandscaping.com, you will find a link to our landscape planner outlining areas that are common to focus on each month. Also check out the archived newsletters for additional timely information. Asset Landscaping is often requested to provide articles for local and national publications. Many of these are archived on our Newsletter page as well. Please contact us if you would like an article for your publication.

January will be focused on caring for plants that have frost damage, trimming up ornamental grasses and Oleanders. We also take this time to plug open drip emitters that have been chewed or popped off.

Now is a good time to trim deciduous trees. Please let us know if you have budgeted for this and we will help you with your tree maintenance program. While having all of your trimming done at one time is usually less expensive in the long run, that is not always possible. By getting on a regular tree maintenance program, you can allocate trimming based on a quarterly or semi-annual program set up by a professional Arborist.



February is the time for Olive Tree spraying to reduce the amount of fruit produced. The window is very narrow to have this done. Please make your approvals in January to ensure you get scheduled in time. The fruit is not only messy but also attracts insects that many times do not leave after the feast!

As always, the best time to install granite is during the cooler months. It costs us less to install it because the workers are not in 100 plus temperatures so we pass the savings on to you! Get your quotes now!

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Contact us for your introduction to maintenance practices that will enhance your property and your bottom line using maintenance standards adopted by the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association. AZLCA.COM



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