



MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

Professional Landscape Management

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www.AssetLandscaping.com

WELCOMING SPRING

We have mentioned before that spring is the time to prepare for summer. A very important part of this is the "spring cutbacks". Cutbacks are a vital part of keeping your ornamentals (shrubs & groundcover) looking fresh, natural, and healthy. Cutbacks can be in two forms. The first is called "Renovation Pruning" which consists of cutting the entire plant back to the ground. Depending on the plant, this can range from ground level to a 4"-8" stump when completed. This form is the most effective to allow the ornamentals to grow and bloom as nature, and the landscape architect intended.

The other form is a seasonal cut back which is based on the intended size of the shrub at the end of the growing season. If the intended height of a shrub is 4 feet, and the shrub will grow 2 feet, the shrub will be pruned down to 2 feet tall. This will allow the shrub to grow naturally unimpeded for the season while only receiving light maintenance pruning. If the shrub was pruned any taller, the only way to maintain the desired height would be to constantly shear. This again would reduce leaf structure, blooming, and would increase the shrubs need for water.

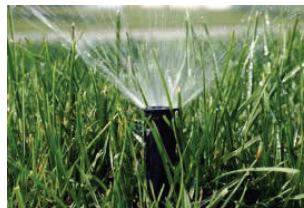
Other activities to welcome spring is fertilization. March temperatures normally allow iron to be introduced into the soil profile. This gives the deep rich green that we have all come to love! Other nutrients will be introduced as well to fully round out the necessary food the grass needs.

Make sure to get out and enjoy the weather!

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, regional 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.

For the southwest desert regions, early March signals spring time temperatures. With night time lows escalating toward the mid 50's, we turn our focus on turf irrigation. We expect May to bring the soil temperatures warm enough for the Bermuda grass to begin waking up from dormancy. For those systems that have been running on a



limited basis because they were not overseeded, they will be checked for proper coverage adjustment, breaks, and other problems. These need to be repaired prior to the summer season in order to have proper water distribution and keep the summer lawn green without over watering.

Upcoming tasks to consider are tree pruning, aeration, soil amendments to the turf, and spring planting. March and April are the best time to have trees pruned since May through October are the busiest times with Palm Tree pruning and monsoon damage. If you are ready to start a tree maintenance program, please let us know and we can help! If you have not scheduled your spring aeration yet, please send that in. Aeration is one of the best ways to encourage your healthy Bermuda lawns to remain healthy and vibrant. Now is the best time to install plants and trees. We are beyond any expected frost events and have some good time before summer heat to minimize plant stress.

~ BACKFLOW INSPECTIONS ~

Need your backflows inspected? We can provide that service now! With this service electronic reporting will be included with the backflow serial numbers for your records. Contact us when it is time for your required backflow inspections!

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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