



Through the Garden Window



Creating the Scenery of Your Life

September 2011

Serving the
High Desert and
Inland Empire.

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CALL US FOR:

Natural Rock Ponds

Waterfalls

Design

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Maintenance

Sprinkler Repairs

Fertilization

Pest Control

Gopher Control

Lawn Aeration

Weed Control

Pre-emergents

Color Changes

Pond Owners... Got Algae?

I know some of you either have a pond, or are considering one. Water gardens and ponds create a peaceful, natural feeling look and sound. When installed and maintained properly, there is not much that can match the instant connection with nature right outside your door.

In a spa-like concrete or liner pond without plants or fish, it is easy to keep out the algae. Keep the water sterilized with chlorine or bromine or salt just like a pool.

For those of us with big (or little) ponds stocked with fish and plants it is a lot harder to control the algae while maintaining healthy plants and fish. String algae is the most common reason people give up on their ponds. A little bit of string algae is going to be present all the time in your natural pond. It is cyclical and will ebb and flow with the seasons and the temperature.

Equipment

The first step is to make sure you run your pump 24/7. Don't cheat on this step. If you can't afford the electricity, you might as well not have a pond.

You must filter your water as well. There are probably as many ways to filter your pond as there are ponds!
(That is an article for another day.)

Don't underestimate the power of a UV light to eliminate the floating or suspended algae that causes green water. This really made the difference in my pond when conditions are favorable for algae. I really noticed the difference

in my pond when the light on my UV filter went out, and when I replaced it again.

Additives

Three "must have" additives for ponds are Microbe lift, Algae Fix and GreenCleen.

Microbe lift seeds and maintains your biological filters. There are many different types of Microbe Lift for different times of the year. While it smells like something you might want to throw away, it is well worth it when it comes to a clearer, healthier pond.

If I had to use only one additive in my pond I'd choose Algae fix. Algae Fix actually controls the string algae in ponds! It really is great at preventing and controlling minor string algae when you get and use it regularly.

GreenCleen Algaecide is what you use if your pond is overwhelmed with string algae. It is a granular product that looks a little like detergent granules. You sprinkle it on the surfaces coated with algae in the pond and it starts to go to work right away with its oxidation action. It works to kill the algae really well, so make sure you oxygenate your pond with an aerator, as dead and decomposing algae will reduce the oxygen in your pond and can cause fish kill. Know the volume of your pond and be sure to follow label directions of all products for a safe application

If you need help or don't have the time, call us. We can help you design, build, and maintain your pond!

For all of you that have algae growing on your walk, we have a solution for that too!

Fall Checklist

Fall is a time to revitalize your gardens from the summer heat and to get your garden ready for winter. Follow the list below to get a jump on fall.

- Remove fallen fruit and debris from base of plants. Removing the debris will eliminate areas where pests and diseases hide and over-winter so tidy up!
- Water plants deeply and more infrequently to prep for winter.
- Shop now for the best selection on spring bulbs and plant them between now and November.
- Fertilize your lawns now for the most productive fertilizer application of the year.
- Apply pre-emergent weed control early to eliminate weedy grasses like poa annua that will show up in cooler weather.
- Fertilize your trees and shrubs for a healthier garden year-round.
- Plant NOW! Fall is the best time to plant new plants. They have more time to establish a healthier root system before the heat of next summer.
- Adjust your watering for weather conditions. October is the time to turn your sprinkler clock down by 46% of your July watering time. Did you read the article on watering? If not, visit our website at www.perfectionlandscape.com or call to have them mailed to you.

Did you know?

You can add a rain switch to your sprinkler clock or timer to automatically suspend watering when it rains and automatically allow it to return back to the regular schedule when drier? Interested? Call us for more information. (760) 868-6104

Mention code **Rain 11** for a **\$10.00** discount of your rain switch installation before December 15, 2011.

My Favorite Recipes



Copycat Chilis' Salsa

- 1 can tomatoes and green chilies (14.5 oz can)
- 1 can whole peeled tomatoes (14.5 oz can, plus the juice)
- 1 tablespoon and 1 teaspoon jalapenos (canned, diced, not pickled)
- 1/4 cup yellow onion (diced)
- 1/2 - 3/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon sugar

Instructions

In food processor place jalapenos and onions. Process for just a few seconds. Add both cans of tomatoes, salt, sugar, and cumin. Process all ingredients until well blended but do not puree. Place in covered container and chill. A couple of hours of chilling will help blend and enrich the flavor.

(760) 868-6104



Up Next... Frustrations of a High Desert Gardener (can you say Rabbits?)
And... getting your sprinkler system ready for winter

Introducing.....

When you have been in business as long as we have, (nearly 40 years), you will develop relationships with other related businesses with whom you share similar values. Our values of continually educating ourselves, our employees and our clients, doing what you want, on a timely basis, at a fair price, and just being all around helpful are mirrored in the business of our friends at Valley Tree Care. We've known Ryan Day and his brother Dan before they were as tall as a chain saw because we did business with their dad. It is our pleasure to work with them and refer their business to our clients as well. I asked Ryan to do a little article on proper maintenance on trees for our newsletter.

The Value of Healthy Trees

By Ryan Day
Valley Tree Care

Think of your trees as an investment. A healthy tree increases in value with age and pays big dividends, increasing property values, beautifying our surroundings, purifying our air and saving energy by providing cooling shade from summer's heat and protection from winter's wind.

Providing preventive care for your trees is the key to maximizing your investment the benefits they provide for your property. Regular maintenance, designed to promote plant health and vigor, ensures their value will continue to grow. Preventing a problem is much less costly and time-consuming than curing one once it has developed. An effective maintenance program, including regular inspections and the necessary follow-up care of pruning, fertilizing and insect management can correct problems that could have proved damaging or fatal if gone un-checked.

Regular inspections of trees at least once a year can prevent or reduce the severity of future disease, insect and environmental problems. During an inspection I check for signs tree vigor: new leaves or buds, leaf size, twig growth and the absence of crown dieback. Any abnormalities found during these inspections, including insect activity, deformed, discolored or dead twigs or leaves are addressed with a plan of action to correct or minimize these problems.

Pruning is the most common tree maintenance procedure next to watering. Pruning is often necessary to remove dead, diseased, or insect-infested branches and to improve tree structure and maintain safety. Because each cut has the potential to change the growth pattern of a tree, no branch should be removed without a reason. When done correctly pruning can make trees safer, healthier and more beautiful.

Fertilization is another important aspect of tree care. Trees require certain nutrients to function and grow. Urban landscape trees can be growing in soils that do not contain sufficient available nutrients for satisfactory growth and development. In these situations, it may be necessary to fertilize to improve tree health.

These are just a few things that go into regular tree maintenance; every tree and every situation require an individualized approach to ensure safe, healthy and beautiful trees for generations to come. It is always a pleasure to meet the specific needs that my client's trees require, so that they can enjoy the full benefit of their safe and healthy trees.

If you would like a free inspection and evaluation of your trees give me a call, I would be happy to assist you with any tree care needs.

Ryan Day

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Renovating Your Lawn

For those of you die-hard “gotta-have-grass fans”, a healthy lawn is to live for. It doesn’t take much to make most people happy. That little patch of cool, green covers the ground and absorbs the rain, preventing erosion and deflects the heat to make your environment more comfortable. It’s a place for the kids to play and take a tumble without getting hurt, and a soft place to spread a blanket to play with the grandkids or picnic.

Sometimes, even though we have a lawn, we do not appreciate it by caring for it properly. Life happens and we get busy, forget to fertilize water infrequently and hand off the care of our lawns to “gardeners” who “mow and go”. Our lawn begins to look thin and patchy with bare spots and weeds thorough out. One day you wake up and take a look at your lawn and wonder what happened. Here are the steps to take to bring your lawn back in line.

What Happened?

The first step is to evaluate why the lawn deteriorated. Is the lawn thinning due to heavy shade? If so a different type of lawn may be the ticket. Or perhaps pruning the tree to let in more light and rain would be best. Is your lawn thin and weedy? Perhaps there is a sprinkler problem that needs repairing. Or it could be that you’re not fertilizing enough and putting down the weed preventers appropriately.

Cultural practices like frequency of mowing and mowing at the proper cutting height are critical in a healthy lawn. Often, when the lawn cutting is hired out, the gardener’s mowing equipment just drags seeds from weeds and undesirable grass into your lawn, so be careful and hire people who not only do good work, but people who take care of and clean their equipment.

There are 6 basic steps to renovating your lawn to a healthy, beautiful lush asset to your home or business.

Soil test A soil test will confirm or rule out any soil issues and are best addressed early on. You can correct soil problems before you invest the time and money in renovating your lawn.

Weed control You can pull or spray your weeds. Pulling won’t get all the weeds, is time consuming and they will come back. Spraying with a broadleaf weed control will eliminate some weeds but not the grassy weeds. Or you can use a non-selective weed spray to kill everything and start over.

Prep the seed bed. Aerify the soil by using a core-removing aerifier and follow up with a de-thatcher (power rake) to remove thatch and thin the existing grass and to make a good environment for the seed. Follow up with a light fertilization and you are ready for the seed.

Seed and top. Apply the seed according to label directions, (usually 7 to 10 lbs per 1000 sq feet but may be different for some grasses). Using more will not help and could hinder proper seed germination. Apply an extremely thin coating of topper to cover the seed and help keep it moist during the germination process. A thick coating of topper will hinder germination) Roll seed and topper for good contact with the soil.

Water, water, water. Now is the most critical time. You must keep the seed moist continuously for the next few weeks but not soggy. This might mean watering once to several times a day for very short periods. You just need to keep the top moist, not wet. You will see green start coming up anywhere from 7 days (for rye grasses) to two weeks for fescues. The fertilizer you put down when seeding will help the grass get established.

Mowing Mow your new lawn when most of it reaches about 3- 3 1/2 inches in height. Cut it no less than 2 to 2 1/2 inches high. Continue to water as needed, but cut back on the number of times a day you water. Your goal is to wean your lawn to need watering less often with dry periods between days. This will cause your lawn to develop deeper roots and be more drought tolerant

When is the best time to renovate my lawn? Without a doubt, fall is the very best time with spring not far behind. When the weather is cooler, but soil temperatures are still up, the grass will germinate and it will be easier to keep the soil moisture at optimum levels.

Let us help you get the lawn you deserve! Call us at (760) 868-6104 to get started right away!

A Perspective on Time

There is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out ALL OF IT, of course!!!!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the plane.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And remember that time waits for no one. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present!!!

- Author Unknown



The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The next best time is TODAY!