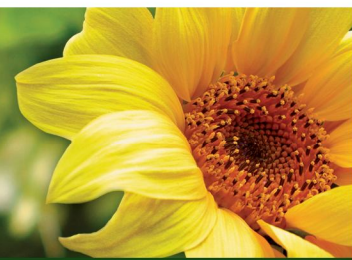




Through the Garden Window



Creating the Scenery of Your Life

FEBRUARY 2012

Serving the
High Desert and
Inland Empire.

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Pre-emergents

Color Changes

What are you pruning for?

Often, the annual training and pruning of fruit trees is neglected. Without training and pruning, however, fruit trees will not develop proper shape and form. You will have a much healthier tree, and they will provide a better yield with proper pruning.

Pruning develops a strong framework that will support the fruit the tree produces. Proper pruning will remove dead, diseased, or broken limbs and open up the tree canopy to allow more light inside the tree. The increased light will help the tree blossom and set fruit and help the fruit mature properly.

A more open tree canopy will allow for more wind resistance and good air flow, resulting in resistance to some diseases and pest issues. It also makes the tree more pleasing in shape and easier to harvest the fruit, cover the tree to protect from the birds if necessary, and to apply pesticides when needed.

Even though your fruit tree is budding and blooming now, it is not too late to prune. Better now than later when it is laden with too much fruit and you end up with broken branches.



There is a difference!

Did you get chocolate for Valentines day? Were you hoping for a box of

grocery store chocolates or a box of See's? They are both the same right? Sweet tasting chocolate. But one costs more than the other. A lot more. And somehow, the See's is more satisfying, most likely because of the quality ingredients and care that went into the box. Once you've had a box of See's, you're set for a while.

The same goes for lots of things. What comes to mind for me because I'm doing a lot of it now, is insect control on trees and shrubs. This is the time of year for preventative control and we do a lot of it.

We typically use a "basal application method," (liquid drench application around the base of the tree trunk). I could do a foliar spray application (on the leaves) using a fraction of the insecticide and resulting in a lower initial cost to the client. Hmmmm.... Why wouldn't I want to do that?

1. Foliar spraying has more risk for drifting to non target plants, animals, neighbors.
2. Spraying kills both bad bugs and the good bugs that eat them creating havoc with the environment.
3. Foliar sprays only last a few months vs. a year for basal drench application.
4. Basal application is in the whole tree vs. foliar application is in only the top.

So even though the basal application is more costly, it is longer lasting AND more satisfying to the tree and client!

Is a Rain Switch right for you?

Have you ever turned off your sprinkler clock when it was raining and forgot to turn it back on? You only noticed because the weather got so nice and then your lovely plants started to wilt and turn brown.

You can avoid that thriving to just barely surviving cycle if you install a rain switch on your sprinkler clock. Rain switches connect to your sprinkler clock with wires or in some cases wirelessly. Most collect water from the rain in a little cup and the moisture interrupts the electric circuit to the sprinkler clock, preventing it from coming on. The clock resumes normal operation all on it's own when the water evaporates. All automatic and no more coming home to sprinklers running in the rain. Call us. We can make it happen.



Get your garden tools ready for Spring

Soon, you will be headed out to ready your plants for spring. You will be heading back those scruffy perennials and grasses that look so brown and unkempt, getting them ready to take off with new spring growth.

Make the job easier on yourself by cleaning, sharpening and oiling your pruners and tools. All you need is a flat diamond file, some steel wool and some lubricant like olive oil or other lightweight machine oil.

For pruners, start with cleaning the blade with the steel wool. Then draw the file from the base of the blade towards the tip in a curved motion and at a 10 to 20 degree angle. From 10 to 40 passes depending on how dull the blade is. When satisfied, oil the pruners lightly with olive oil and store for the next use.

Did you know that you can (and should) sharpen your shovel as well, to make it easier to dig? It makes a world of difference in ease of getting the job done.



Question of the month:

What is missing from your garden?

When you go outdoors, what is the thing you are missing in your garden the most? Is it inviting spaces to sit? Colorful plants? Texture? Cooling spaces? A healthy lawn? What's bugging you the most? Let us know so we can help you get the garden you desire.

We're here for your Lawn, Tree, Shrub, and Weed control Needs
Call Us. We Can Help!

My Favorite Recipes A quick warm dinner and a great way to use leftover roasted chicken!



Chicken Tortilla Soup

½ small onion chopped
2 tsp olive oil
1 qt chicken broth
1 tablespoon Chicken Base
1 c. chopped cooked chicken
1 10 oz can chopped tomato
1 small zucchini sliced
½ cup chopped cilantro
Salt to taste after cooking

Topping:

Tortilla chips or strips
Shredded longhorn cheese

Sauté onion in oil at low heat in a large 3 qt saucepan until translucent. Add chicken broth and base, chopped cooked chicken, the canned tomatoes and chopped cilantro and sliced zucchini and stir to combine. Simmer for 30 minutes stirring occasionally. Place a small handful of tortilla chips in a soup bowl. Fill bowl with soup and top with shredded cheese and enjoy! Serves 4

A Garden of Love Grows in
a Grandma. ☺
~Unknown

And one I couldn't resist:

"Grandmas are moms with
lots of frosting"