

Gardenworks Times

How Green is Green



After almost 35 years in the landscape industry our company is being faced with the “Green” question. On the surface it would seem that landscaping and gardening would, by nature and definition, qualify as being green. But appearances are deceiving.

The energy needed from fossil fuels and pollution generated by landscaping operations is considerable. Our trucks and equipment run on oil products and lawn and garden equipment is not particularly clean when

compared to the new generation of automobiles.

What’s the answer and how are we dealing with this problem?

One of our main efforts is in reducing the organic waste stream that comes from our projects. This includes using mulching lawn mowers and then separating the green debris that comes from projects and sending that debris to a compost facility instead of going directly into a landfill. Over 90% of the collected leaf litter from our landscape maintenance projects gets composted directly at our office/yard location. That composted material is then used as mulch or soil amendment for some of our installation projects.

Planning for and implementing irrigation water savings is another big effort of our company. For almost 5 years we have been carefully monitoring and recording water meter readings. Irrigation controllers are being programmed based on the

Evapotranspiration (ET) rates for our region. We send our meter readings for many projects into an independent monitoring agency that produces a report for us on how close our projects are to a pre-set water budget that is based on ET. This might sound complicated but the end result allows us to adjust controller settings to provide the correct amount of water to plant material and turf to keep landscapes looking their best. Regular water meter readings also enable us to react quickly to high readings often caused by mal-functioning or broken irrigation components.

There are many other ways that we are attempting to reduce the negative environmental effects that occur as a by-product of our operations. We’ll be highlighting some of those in future newsletters.

We’re open to your ideas on how to do this. Feel free to contact us with your ideas ...

Jay Tripathi

Summer Training

In early July Gardenworks provided a valuable training opportunity for its employees through our Summer Training Event. All of the employees in our landscape installation division gathered at our office to participate in field training sessions, team building activities, and a group BBQ lunch. Employees were broken

into training groups based on similar skill levels and then each group rotated through a number of different field training stations.

We can never underestimate the value of training. Increased knowledge and skills through training can provide employees with opportunities for advancement and fosters a higher level of ser-

vice that you expect from us.

We are committed to providing quality service, beautiful gardens, and exciting outdoor living spaces and understand that our employees who have “boots on the ground” are a critical component to our company’s success in these efforts.



Thanks to Junior, Jeff, Davis, Peter, and Jay for their presentations during the training sessions and of course a big thank you to Melissa for organizing the BBQ lunch.



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Summer Garden Check List:

- > Irrigation System Inspection/ Adjustment
- > Irrigation Schedules should be set to 80-100% of July Schedule
- > Sharpen Blades and Tools
- > Fertilize Rose, Citrus and Vegetables
- > Prune Fruit Trees to Thin and Lower
- > Thin Fruit on Fruit Trees and Pick up any Fallen Fruit
- > Dead Head and Detail Summer Annuals
- > Eliminate Standing Water to Reduce Mosquitos

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Preventing Irrigation Run-Off



Run-off occurs when too much water is applied and is not able to be absorbed by the soil. Run-off is typically seen along edges where lawn and sidewalk interface. This scenario is seen when too much run time is programmed into the irrigation controller and or sprinkler attached to a hose is forgotten. A simple process to determine how

long to leave the sprinklers on before the water begins to run-off is to activate the valve controlling the watering and use your watch to time how long it takes before water begins to cross the sidewalk. Once Water is seen crossing the sidewalk check your watch and that is your run time. You will probably find that for relatively flat areas the run time will be about 5

minutes with a typical spray type of sprinkler. Experience says that in the middle of July, your law will need about 15 min worth of water 3-4 days per week. If you set your run time for 5 minutes, you will need the valve to come on three times. Therefore you want to program for 3 start times and space them at least 30 minutes apart.

The Migration of the 100-year Sago Palm

A lucky Sago Palm finds a new home with a little help from Robin See, Kim Fiori and Gardenworks. Healdsburg residents Robin See and Kim Fiori recently sold their rental house on Grant Street. They wanted to make sure that the 100-year old palm went to a good home in a place where everyone could enjoy it, so they decided on the Healdsburg Carnegie

Museum. Fiori and See contacted Gardenworks and asked if we would donate our time to remove and replant the palm. Jay Tripathi and Peter Estournes enthusiastically agreed. We couldn't let a beauty like this go to waste. The Gardenworks crew showed up on site and the move got underway. A few hours later after a delicate removal process, the wrapped palm tree began

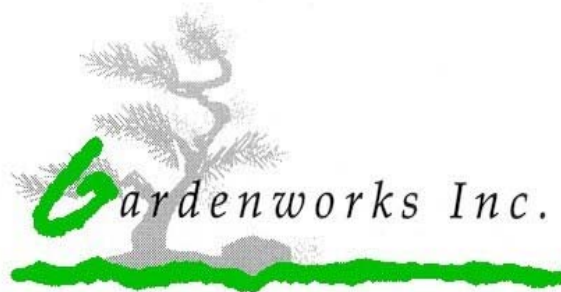
its cross-town journey. The tree was finally planted, unwrapped, and spread its fronds in its new home at the Healdsburg Museum.

Pups from this large Sago Palm were removed and we are anxiously awaiting the emergence of new fronds ...

We will keep you posted on the progress of the offspring.



In the future, we'd like to offer this newsletter to you as an email attachment or as a web-link. Please contact Melissa Wights by phone or email (melissa@gardenworks-inc.com) with your current email address.



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