

FOUR PEAKS MONTHLY

June 2009

Reliability Commitment Innovation Integrity

License # ROC171441 Residential & Commercial K-21



Proper Pruning



Poor Pruning

June "To Do's"

Tree Management

Manage irrigation during June and July. Overwatering now will encourage excessive growth of suckers and branches. With monsoon season arriving soon, this excessive growth along with moist soil will almost guarantee trees will be blown down during high winds. Maintain adequate soil moisture but do not overwater.

Shrub Management

The month of June is a good time to cut back oleanders to help rejuvenate the plant. Cut the plant back to about 18 to 24" in height (for Petite Oleanders). This will stimulate new growth and as a result the plant will be healthier and produce more blooms during the summer. Most oleanders are blooming right now so you may be averse to pruning them however they will recover quickly and produce more flowers as they grow.

Summer Annuals

Be sure to water the flowers daily and apply a balanced fertilizer monthly to encourage health and growth. As temperatures rise, be sure to avoid overwatering which can encourage diseases.

Turf

We are now seeing overseeded areas of turf turning brown. This is due to the rye grass beginning to die out. There is usually a period of time before between the death of the rye and the filling in of the bermuda grass. During this time, follow the following practices to encourage bermuda growth.

1. Continue mowing in the 1- 1 1/2 inch range to stress the ryegrass.
2. Dethatch the overseeded areas to help remove as much of the dead and dying rye as possible.
3. Apply a light application of a nitrogen based fertilizer will help the bermuda grow through the rye.
4. Aeration will also help to encourage bermuda growth.

Landscape Safety

Summer is a desert plants favorite time to grow. Be sure to monitor landscapes for sight visibility problems. Large shrubs and low hanging trees can block visibility for vehicles and pedestrians.

Proper Palm Trimming

June and July are the months in which palm fronds in the Arizona desert are trimmed to remove the previous year's growth and the flower stalks. You will find a huge variation in pruning methods used in the industry and not all are horticulturally sound or safe for the tree.

As with other tree varieties, the leaves (fronds on palms) are where the tree produces the food necessary to grow and to be healthy. When an excessive amount of the green leaf material is removed, the tree will become stressed and decline in health. In the case of palms, the trunk can become weak from excessive pruning year after year.

When trimming palms, it is recommended that you follow the 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock rule. Fronds above a horizontal line from where they are attached to the tree should not be removed (see photo to the left). Only trim fronds below this line. In doing so, only the older fronds are removed and enough fronds are left for healthy growth of the tree.

It is also at this time of the year that palms are flowering and producing seeds. The timing of flower production can vary by as much as a 45 days from year to year depending upon weather. Because of this, it is important to provide sufficient time for the flower stalks to fully emerge. If pruned too early, you may miss stalks that weren't fully developed, thus requiring a subsequent pruning to eliminate.

What to Watch For Next Month

With Monsoon season just around the corner, it is important to properly care for your trees to ensure that they will survive the winds that accompany the storms. Find out how to properly prune and irrigation the trees.

Contact Us: info@fourpeakslandscape.com

P.O. Box 7220 Tempe, AZ 85281 Tel. 480-967-0376 Fax: 480-967-0406

WWW.FOURPEAKSLANDSCAPE.COM

LICENSE # ROC171441 RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL K-21