



Through the Garden Window



Creating the Scenery of Your Life

January 2012

Serving the High Desert and Inland Empire.

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 292390
Phelan, CA 92329

Phone: 760.868.6104

Phone: 909.987.6309

Fax: 760.868.9266

E-Mail:

info@PerfectionLandscape.com

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Weed Control

Pre-emergents

Color Changes

A Different Kind of Newsletter This Month!

January. A new start for all of us. 2011 was in some ways a very good year for us. We got to work on some exciting new landscapes and we made some great new friends that we cherish.

But we also lost some good friends last year. God called more than a few of our good friends home. Shocking as it is, loss is unfortunately, just the catalyst needed for some of us to make major changes in our lives.

And so we embark on 2012 with a mission to make it better, sweeter and more productive than last year. We plan to look around us for the things we want more of and to focus on the positive, to bring more of it in our lives. Pushing negative thoughts away and imagining the way you want things to be will be more beneficial in the long run.

Yes, I know this sounds all “touchy-feely” but I happen to know it works, because I have seen the results for my self this past year. Happiness begins from within. And of course, if we can help you with changing things in a positive way, we are here, ready to help.

A Negative and a Positive Start to the New Year

Speaking of negative, we were blissfully going along with our new year when we got a strange call shortly after the first. Seems some nice lady we never heard of from Pennsylvania called us to find out why we sent her an \$1800 Citibank money order by Express Mail. She didn't know us and couldn't imagine

why we were sending her that kind of money. We couldn't either.

She had found our phone number on Google since the mailing only included our name and post box address. She thought the mailing was important, because someone had spent \$17.95 to mail the money order to her.

At first thought, we both were thinking it was some kind of mistake. We imagined several scenarios where that might occur and managed to quickly dispatch any logical reason for it.

We immediately did some quick investigation and found two charges totaling almost \$400 in on-line postage charges on one of our credit cards. We cancelled the card, but why would someone send a substantial money order with stolen postage??

Ahhh.... The money order was not real. Checking with Citibank told us that they only issue money orders for no more than \$1,000. How could the scammers make money on the deal? Not 100% certain, but we think they sent out several of these fake money orders in our name (considering the postage they purchased). Though it hasn't happened to our new friend in Pennsylvania as yet, we think someone would contact the recipient and tell them that it was a mistake and could they cash the money order and send the money to them, keeping a couple of hundred dollars for their trouble. By the time they found out it was fake, they would be out the cash at their bank.

The positive: Forewarned is forearmed. It could happen to you.

January is Rose Pruning Month!

This month we will be busy getting all the roses under our care pruned and fertilized and ready to impress this spring. The main reason behind the January pruning is to remove the dead and problem canes, open up the plant for good air circulation, reshape the plant and encourage healthy new growth that will produce the spectacular blooms we grow roses for. A balanced rose food with insect and fungus control will top off the winter care for your roses.

Call us at (760) 868-6104 today! We will do it for you.

Did you know that there is a disease called *Rosethorn Disease*? It comes from a fungus on the tips of rose thorns (among other things) and it can cause infection, redness swelling where punctured. The fungus can cause all sorts of problems to your joints and bones and central nervous system by spreading to the lymph system. Wear proper gloves when pruning and wash ANY punctures with antibacterial soap. Watch for signs of infection and swelling and if any, report to your doctor right away. Problems may need to be treated with anti-fungal medicine.

Got Trees You Just Couldn't Bear To Loose?

Now is time to do the most important thing you can do for your high value plants and trees. We live in a desert. Quality trees are few and far between. When you have great trees, you really want to keep them healthy. They provide shade, reducing the need to cool your home, and add real dollar value to your home.

Soon the sap will be flowing in an upward direction as the ground temperature warms in the spring as your trees prepare to send out new growth. That is the optimum time to apply a once-a-year pesticide prevention application that will protect your trees from most pests for a whole season. Well worth it when you consider the expense of taking down a sick tree, losing the shade and replacing the tree. **Please call us to help you with your trees.**

Remember, Spring Weed Control Starts Now

When you look outside your window, do you like what you see? For some of us all is cool. Others, not so much. Even though it IS winter, (and an unusually warm and lovely winter to be sure), any kind of rain, and weeds will follow. Especially because it is so warm, those little land mines will germinate with just the slightest of encouragement. You know it. If you can't see them now, you will soon.

Get on top of that negative right now and prevent those weeds from even coming up! Call today and have us put down your weed pre-emergent to prevent the weeds from ever being an issue.

We are here for all your Tree, Shrub, and Weed control Needs

My Favorite Recipes

This was the hit of my New Years Eve Day BBQ!



Hot Artichoke Dip (From Cindy's Party)

Total Time: 40 min.

Prep: 10 min.

Cook: 30 min.

Ingredients:

1 (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
1 cup mayonnaise
1 (14 ounces) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
1/2 cup Spinach, frozen, chopped
1 cup shredded, slivered, or grated Parmesan, Romano or Asiago Cheese
Dash Hot Sauce
Dash Salt and Pepper

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

In a large mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese with a hand held electric mixer until smooth. Then beat in the mayonnaise until smooth. Add remaining ingredients and stir together until combined.

Transfer the dip to a pie plate or shallow gratin dish. Bake in a preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes until the top is golden brown and the dip is bubbling. Serve hot with crackers, tortilla chips, toasted bread or veggies.

I cultivate my garden, and
my garden cultivates me.
~Robert Brault