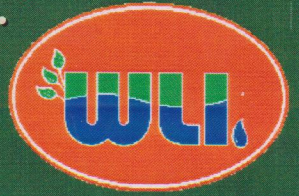
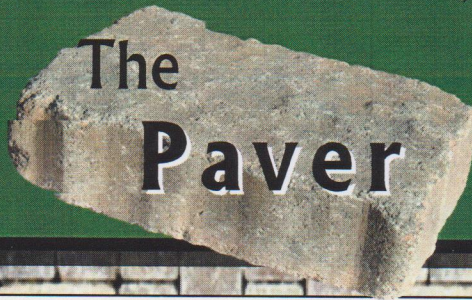


WICKENBURG LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION, INC.

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Those Majestic Plants ... Palms

Palm trees are those majestic plants that we plant around our houses to remind us of the tropics. For such a graceful plant most people have very little knowledge of how

palm trees grow or how to take care of them. First, palm trees are in the grass family. As such we need to treat them more like a shrub than a "tree". Secondly, it is many times cheaper to keep a palm tree healthy than it is to fix a problem with a palm. A typical problem will also take about 12-18 months to fully correct. The biggest problem that occurs with palm trees is that they are pruned up too much. People incorrectly think that if they prune up the fronds more then they will have to prune less frequently. When we learn how a plant grows we understand that plants roots take in minerals and water then transfer that up the plant to the leaves and then the leaves through photosynthesis transform the water and minerals into food.

With this knowledge we know that if we cut off almost all of a plants food source, "leaves" it will quickly throw out a "flush"

Palm Trees are in the Grass Family

of new ones. This is done very rapidly thus negating the idea of excessive pruning. Once the plant has enough leaves to properly control photosynthesis then the plant starts putting out leaves at a normal rate. Continual drastic pruning of palms this way depletes the starch levels in the main stalk and weakens the immune system of the palm. National pruning standards state that a palm tree shall not be pruned up past horizontal during normal pruning. When palm trees are pruned and feed properly they

grow at a slower rate and the fronds remain greener and fuller while the webbing on the fronds grows stronger. Fertilizing of palms should begin in mid spring and repeated 4 times every 8 weeks. It is important to use a palm specific fertilizer since it

contains micronutrients that are uniquely

needed by palms. Typically this fertilizer is a granular that is worked into the soil and then hand watered in. If you are using an "all purpose" fertilizer through an automatic injector unit then we would only use 1/2 -3/4 the recommended amount.



Following these guidelines will help ensure

that the time and effort we spend on our palms will reward us with the unique beauty that only a palm tree can deliver.

Upcoming Events

Certified Landscaper Training 7/9 and 8/6

Safety / Employee Luncheon 7/15

What is I.C.P.I. and Why Do I Care?

Wickenburg Landscape and Irrigation is proud to be a member of Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute (ICPI) and also the ICPI Arizona chapter.

ICPI is an association that is dedicated to the promotion of

concrete pavers as the comprehensive solution to most pavement applications. In my travels to the Middle East I have driven on streets that have been around for hundreds of years. I have walked through courtyards of churches that have had pavers installed for more than 500 years ago. Can we say this about asphalt or even concrete? While technology has given us more durable products today the philosophy of what pavers are and how they are installed trace back to the Romans thousands of years ago. In today's world we think nothing of installing a pavement whether it is a road, driveway, patio, or a simple walkway and after 5, 10, or 15 years just replace it again. There is a better way and ICPI is promoting it. With properly installed pavers the durability is just one of the added benefits.

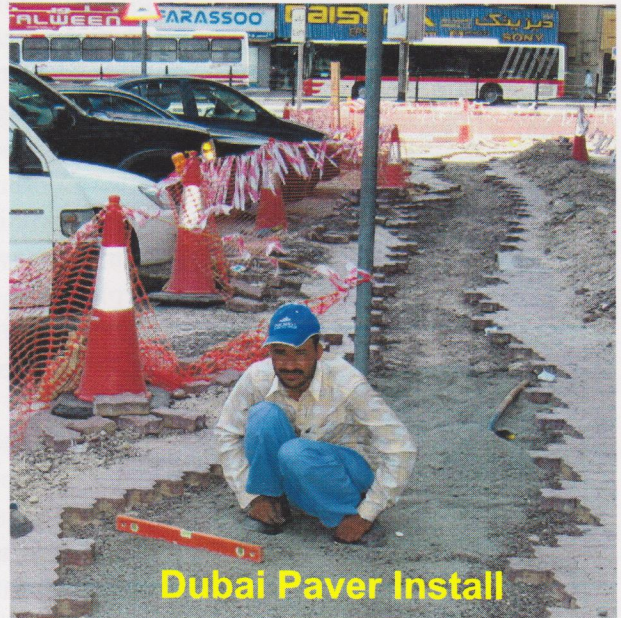
The beauty of properly selected

pavers and how this ties a yard together is something that even the best concrete cannot come close to achieving. Some of the other advantages of pavers are

The Middle East has used Pavers for a Thousand Years

that they are removable and can be modified years later without needing to replace the actual pavers. This is a considerable cost saving whether you are doing a simple yard renovation or a complete yard makeover. As a board member and a member of the education committee for the Arizona chapter of ICPI, I can see what a difference we are making here on the local level. I am also a certified paver instructor and travel 4-6 times a year teaching other contractors how to install pavers the correct way. My company believes in this so much that we have over the last 5 years certified 7 employees and sponsored employees from 3 local

landscape companies to attend certification training. While my offer stands for local landscapers or Town of Wickenburg employees to gain certification I understand that only by great leadership will these ways of installing pavers become standard practices. I sincerely believe that a project which is properly installed will enhance the surrounding areas and will encourage others to use pavers on their projects, while conversely a poorly installed project will drive away 10 times as many people from ever even considering using pavers. On your next patio or driveway project consider concrete pavers that are installed by an ICPI registered company that has certified installers and sit back and enjoy your trouble free project for years to come.



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