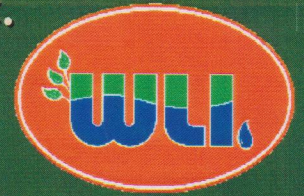
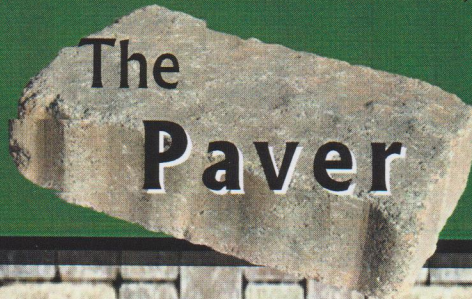


WICKENBURG LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION, INC.

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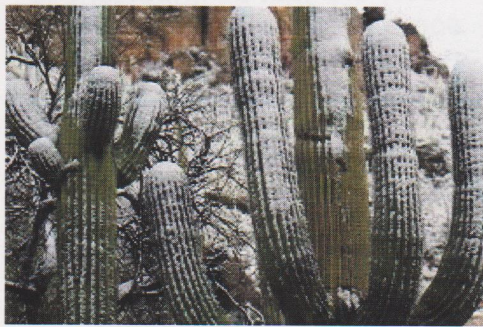


Vol. 1 Issue 8

August ...

Hottest on Record

WOW the cooler days of October are finally here. This summer has been a scorcher, especially since August was the hottest on record. In the last eight months Wickenburg has gone



from 15 degrees to 115 degrees. Not many places in the country have hundred degree swings with

the kind of plant material that we have here in the "desert".

While specific details on how to handle the

extremes will be covered in another issue it is important to have a general understanding of the basics and how to work with these large swings in our climate.

While almost everyone has some type of plant in their yard that needs protection from the cold we need to know if our plants will simply die

back for the winter or will the cold KILL them for good. Some plants may need some extra protection like a frost blanket or an external heat source such as lights or heat wraps. Knowing what our plants can tolerate helps us work around their individual needs.



On the other side of the spectrum we have the seemingly unbearable heat in the summer. Knowing how much sun some of our plants can take is imperative to their survival. We also need to keep in mind that the summer daylight hours are longer and thus give our plants more light which is in most cases good but in others can cause sunburn or added stress increasing the likelihood of pest or fungus infestations. Covering such plants with 20-80% shade cloth can keep our plants looking their best after the summer has passed. Sometimes extra water is needed for our plants in the summer and we also need to remember that even if a plant can take all day full sun we cannot prune half of that plant off because the remaining parts will sunburn because they were always

continued on back

Knowing Basics Can Save You Money!

This is the Time of Year for the

LOCAL AND NATIONAL LANDSCAPE AWARDS!

I.C.P.I Awards Banquet November 4

A.L.C.A. Awards Banquet November 19

continued from front...

"covered" by the branches that were just cut off.

Just knowing the basics can save you considerable amounts of money. From the

possibility of planting the wrong plant to helping in the decision process for your next plant, knowing the simple things can keep your yard from looking barren and destitute after one of these extreme years.

Why so Hard?

Why is it so hard to grow healthy plants in our soil? Since Ideal

soil has a balanced proportion of minerals, organic matter, water and air we generally need to correct this by modifying our soil in certain ways.

The native soils around Wickenburg and also a good portion of the desert in the southwest are very high in mineral content

and very low in organic matter. The high mineral content and density of our soil is



evident as we typically have to use a jackhammer to dig any type of hole to plant our plants in.

These types of soils create an

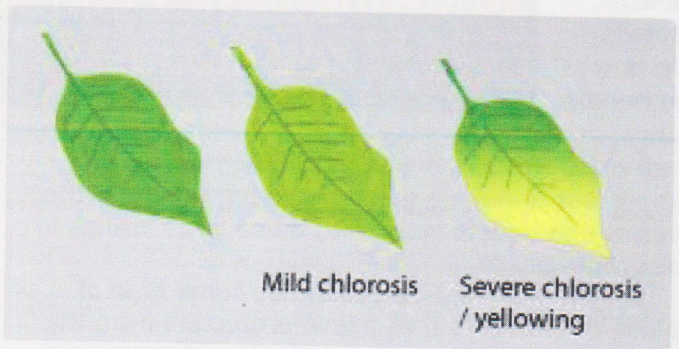
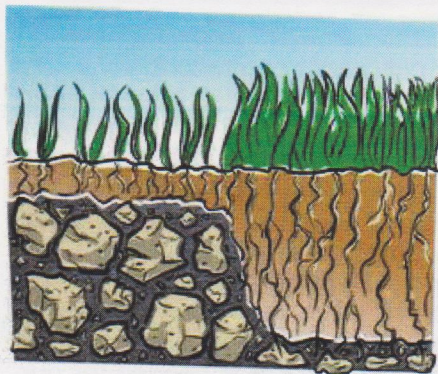
extremely harsh environment for our plants root systems. Compacted soils restrict water and air movement around in the root zone leaving our plant lacking some of the basic essentials for good healthy roots. These types of soils lead us to amending our soils

with mulch, compost, sand, and using different types of fertilizer to encourage better root growth. Micro

nutrients, such as magnesium and manganese which are essential for healthy palm

trees, are just as important to some plants as their watering needs. As we continue to learn more and more about the biology and growth habits of

our plants we understand that the better our soil is the better our plants will do. Learning to unite the dreams of our landscape plans and ideas, our understanding of how plants grow, their individual requirements, and technology we can grow extraordinarily beautiful yards that can thrive in our Sonoran desert.



"National Award Winning Landscapes"



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