



Leader with 12 National & State Awards

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2012 Awards

Once again it is time of year to have our projects judged by our peers in the industry to see how our work compares to the other great companies around the state. We are very pleased to say that we entered two projects and won top honors in three categories.

Our first project was "1876" which included installing a bronze sculpture of three Indians in a realistic and plausible setting. We won the top award for this both at ICPIAZ (Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute Arizona Chapter) in the natural hardscapes category and also won the top award at ALCA (Arizona Landscape Contractors Association) in the small garden category. This landscape installation was also featured on the cover of ALCA's September/October magazine issue.

We also entered one of our low voltage



lighting projects in the low voltage category. This project was unique in the aspect of it was the first lighting system that we can remotely control through the Internet. This was designed to allow the client the ability to adjust the time the lights turned off for their late night arrivals. There are also areas of the yard that can be turned on and off independently from the rest of the yard such as the back yard and pool areas. We took home the top honor for this project as well and now have won the top low voltage lighting system in Arizona in back to back years. This brings to a total of 12 state and national awards that Wickenburg Landscape has won and we look forward to adding to those numbers in the years to come.

As we receive recognition for our projects we realize that we have to step up our efforts more and more each year to continue to achieve excellence. As a wise old man once said, the only thing worse than not receiving recognition for your work is to receive some recognition and then never be able to achieve that level again. This inspires us to continue to grow both in our ideas and our commitment to the highest level of service to our clients.



Irrigation system

part 2... the Water Filter

Water filtration is one of the more forgotten items in most irrigation systems. This one key component can protect your entire system from premature failure and also from costly repairs.

The first thing to understand that in order to protect the irrigation system the filter must be installed before everything else. This means that the filter needs to be a main line filter capable of handling constant pressures of at least 120 psi. Unfortunately I find many contractors using "drip" filters as a filter for the irrigation system. These filters are designed for use after a valve and always with an open end so there is no constant pressure that builds up more than 20-25 psi.

There are differing ideas on what type of filter to use for an irrigation system but our preference is to use a filter with a stainless steel insert that can be cleaned rather than being replaced. If a cartridge needs to be replaced instead of cleaned up to 4-10 times a year this creates an additional cost which over the life of the filter can exceed more than



\$1,000 in extra costs. I would rather clean and reuse a good filter than be required to replace it.

The size of the filter is extremely important. As the smallest outlet on an irrigation system most drip emitters will pass solids up to 120-150 micron. Without getting too technical we basically need to filter these larger particles out before the water gets to the emitter. If we don't remove these particles they start to "plug" up the emitters and reduce the water flow rate through them. Knowing which emitters and how much they are currently plugged up would only be a guess. That is why it is so important to start out with a "clean" system and keep it that way. Our filters can be set up with an automatic flush that will automatically discharge the built up sand and sediment reducing the number of times someone actually has to manually perform this function. This filter is also capable of filtering the sand and sediment out of the water that is used for your house. A good filter that has been installed correctly will ensure that your irrigation system is safe from those inevitable deposits of debris that comes from broken water lines or is pumped up from wells.



Freezing citrus

During the winter months we need to protect our citrus from freezing. The actual tree will take a little bit of freezing but the fruit will "dry out". After a freeze the outer layer of fruit will freeze. Once this happens the cells of the fruit are ruined and the juice of the fruit will dry up. It is important to pick this damaged fruit



and use it shortly after the freeze to ensure that you get the most out of the fruit. Unless we have a hard freeze or a long duration of a freeze the inside fruit on the tree will still be good and can be left on the tree for later use. Outsmart a little bit of cold weather by picking and using your fruit before it goes bad.

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