

WICKENBURG LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION, INC.

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There are many special days to enjoy during the year, but Arbor Day is one of those days that has more meaning to those of us who enjoy plants especially trees. Arizonans will celebrate Arbor Day on the last Friday in April. As a landscaper for many years this is one of those days that seemed to sneak up on me every year and leave me wondering why I did not dedicate some of my resources to planting some trees

in our community. With our company establishing the first-ever volunteer agreement with the Town of Wickenburg this past month, we will be planting some trees in honor of this year's Arbor Day at the Wickenburg Airpark, which is adjacent to the Dog Park and also Sunset Park. My desire would be that we create an environment where giving back to our community is not only encouraged but also becomes second nature. Since we all at some

time or another enjoy the benefits of the trees around us let us all take a few minutes of our time to get involved with planting a tree this Arbor Day.



Springtime Gardening

Wow did spring jump up quickly on us this year! Those of us who garden have been enjoying a very mild winter and dreading the eventual heat that will quickly descend upon us. While most landscapers do extensive work with shrubs, trees, and flowers we do not spend very much time as gardeners. Over the past several years I have been taking up gardening more and



more and I now teach a gardening class at our Christian School. While it is very enjoyable for me to plant a tree and then years later see it shade a house it is becoming more enjoyable to plant a row of lettuce and then eat fresh salads all winter long or better yet enjoying my wife's homemade margarita pizza; the red sauce made from

tomatoes picked right out of the garden and the fresh basil picked minutes before it goes on the pizza redefines "fresh".

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Your garden doesn't have to resemble a Victory garden of the 40's and 50's, it can start as simply as one herb in a pot on the kitchen window sill, keep this alive and you are now an official gardener and can continue to grow your garden to any size. If this has rekindled memories from

your past maybe this year will be the time you set aside a little time to start becoming a gardener yourself, maybe you will find out just as I have that gardening is much, much more than just growing vegetables - it is a time to enjoy nature with those around us; especially our family.



Our Worst Enemy

Some of the common diseases and pests that attack our plants are fungus, thrip, and aphids. Other pests that are problematic to our plants are larger animals such as deer, rabbits and javelina. While dealing with some pests can be as easy as adjusting a schedule or several times with a basic pesticide larger pests require more unique types of control. Unfortunately one of the most dangerous pests to our plants is us humans. In most common yards we do more harm to our plants than all the other pests combined. We are constantly inflicting damage or adding stress to many of the plants in our landscape by the unintentional way we care for them; this can be done by incorrectly watering our plants, repeatedly butchering our bushes by improper pruning and by also trying to make a plant "fit" a specific area that it was never designed to be in.



Most of the time the way we treat our plants does not directly hurt or kill them. The more common scenario is a plants' immune system is systematically weakened over a period of time by our actions. While a healthy plant can easily ward off these common pests and even sustain high levels of damage from animals,



a plant that has been abused does not have the energy to resist these intrusions especially in our extreme weather. Simply put the easiest way to enhance the quality of our plants in our yards is to either let them grow naturally or limit the amount of stress by correctly maintaining them.



Next month ... which diseases and pests daily assault our plants?

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