



Special Interest Articles:

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- Cochineal Scale
- Citrus & Palm Fertilization

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Burr - It's FREEZING Outside!

Welcome to 2013 and sub-freezing temperatures in Arizona! So far this year we've had four consecutive days of sub-freezing temperatures. The last time the Valley saw a freeze that lasted this long was 25 years ago!

1988		2013	
DEC 27	LOW 32	JAN 12	LOW 31
DEC 28	31	JAN 13	30
DEC 29	31	JAN 14	30
DEC 30	31	JAN 15	28

We sent out an email letting everyone know the freeze was coming and what preventative action to take for plants and irrigation systems. If you

missed this email, please visit our website at:

www.festivallandscaping.com/Frost-Protection.html

Unfortunately, these temperatures were so low that covering plants did not do much good. However, wrapping the FebCo backflow preventers did help considerably!

Once Spring arrives we'll be able to trim back the dead portions of the plants and see which ones begin rebounding. Others will need to be removed and replaced. We have been taking notice of certain varieties of plants that did

exceptionally well in the freezing temps. These plants also do very well when we're at our hottest during Summer.

If you do need to replace any of your plants, consider replacing them with some of these heartier specimens:

- Rosemary
- Oleanders
- Little John Bottlebrush
- Mediterranean Fan Palms
- Sages (all varieties)
- Red Yucca
- Desert Spoons
- Barrel Cactus
- Saguaro Cactus
- Morning Glories
- Fountain Grasses

Cochineal Scale

Is that a fungus or a bug? When you first see Cochineal scale you may think it looks like a fungus or mold of some kind. In actuality it's an insect that covers itself with a waxy coat that makes it appear as white cottony tufts attached to your cactus pads.

Cochineal scale usually can be controlled by using a strong stream of water



to wash the insects from the cactus. If the infestation is heavy or the insects return, an application of insecticidal soap may be needed.

Many nurseries recommend using Neem Oil products. We have found these to be very successful. One such product is called Triple Action Plus. It effectively removes the Cochineal scale after about two applications.

Always remember to follow the manufacturers instructions when applying.



“March and April are the best months to plant citrus in the low desert. It will generally be three to four years after transplant before a tree starts bearing significant quantities of fruit.”

Master Gardener Journal, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Maricopa

Fertilizing Citrus & Palm Trees

CITRUS

Citrus trees should be fertilized three times a year. However, you should NOT fertilize trees younger than one year because they are too easily burned.

After one year, you should apply 1/3 of their annual fertilizer requirements in February, May, and finally in September.

The quantity of fertilizer will depend on the age of your tree. Follow the manufactures directions closely and always water in fertilizers well. Applying too large of a dose could damage the tree.

For further information on application amounts, please visit our website at:

www.festivallandscaping.com/Citrus-Trees.html

PALM TREES

The best time for planting

palms is during warm weather when root growth is most active. Soil temperatures above 65° F aid root establishment. The preferred time is late spring to early summer.

Palms look considerably better if they have adequate nutrients. In Arizona landscapes, nitrogen is the most commonly deficient nutrient. Other deficiencies include magnesium and potassium. In all cases preventative fertilization is best, since the discolored leaves don't recover.

Lush green growth will result from using a “palm specific” fertilizer that contains about 3 times as much nitrogen as phosphorous (the first and the third number on the bag are approximately 3 times the middle number, plus Mg and micronutrients.

Apply this product to palms after their first establishment summer, following directions on the label for the tree's size. Spread the product under the canopy (avoiding the area net to the trunk) in mid spring and again in early summer. Water thoroughly.

New for 2013: *Festival Landscaping is now offering citrus and palm tree fertilization.* Let us care of your trees while maintaining your landscape! We'll keep your trees on a regular schedule of fertilization so you're always sure to have the proper nutrition at just the right time.

If you would like your citrus or palm trees to be cared for by us, please let us know!



Flower Planting Guide for the Low Desert

There are many types of flowers that can be grown in our area.

Annual flowers complete their life cycle in one growing season.

Biennials grow vegetatively the first year, flower in the second year and typically die after flowering.

Perennials live more than two years and once established bloom each year.

The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Live Sciences has published the ***Flower Planting Guide for the Low Desert***. This guide is available online and provides a complete chart

of the types of flowers, color, height, light needs, water needs, blooming periods, heartiness, and even the best time to plant for each flower listed!

A link to this chart can be found through our website at:

www.festivallandscaping.com/Plants.html

EZ-Flo Fertigation & Fertilizing Programs

This year Festival Landscaping is proud to be offering several new fertilizing services.

EZ-Flo Fertigation

In December, 2012 Festival Landscaping became an authorized distributor of the in-ground EZ-Flo Fertilizing Systems.

EZ-FLO Main Line Systems attach directly to your in-ground sprinkler and drip irrigation system. Every time you use your irrigation system, EZ-FLO releases small, precision doses of water soluble or liquid fertilizers into the water stream automatically.

One system will feed through both sprinkler and drip irrigation zones without the need to make any adjustments or nozzle changes to compensate for water flow or water pressure.

We've partnered with a distributor of BioFeed Solutions to provide the best possible fertilizer for low desert landscaping. Biofeed products nourish living soil systems by supplying a concentrate of organic acids, polysaccharides, enzymes, and select nutrients.

For before and after photos of examples using the EZ-Flo system in conjunction with the BioFeed Solutions, visit our website under *EZ-Flo Fertigation*.

One Time Applications

If you're interested in having your yard fertilized on an as needed basis, we will begin these programs in March. We have a truck mounted system that allows us to fertilize your yard using water soluble BioFeed Solutions

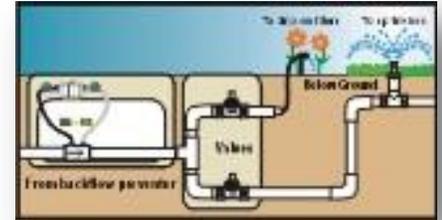
products.

Citrus & Palm Fertilizing Program

Fertilizing your citrus and palms can be incorporated with your landscape maintenance. We'll keep your trees on a schedule of fertilizing and make sure it's performed at the optimal time throughout the year.

With all the challenges our landscapes face with adverse weather and lack of nutrients in our soil, we're very pleased to be offering assistance. We'll all be looking forward to a green, lush, flowering 2013!

If you'd like to receive a quote for the EZ-Flo system or any other fertilizing service, please email us at: festivalandscaping@live.com



The EZ-Flo Fertigation system is installed after the backflow preventer and before the valves. This enables direct injection of fertilizer during all watering cycles.

Tree Trimming



Lion's tailing is the "gutting out" of a tree by removing a large number of inner branches. The limbs of a tree look like a lion's tail after pruning. The limbs will appear long and slender with a puff of foliage at the end.

Here are some reasons this type of trimming is harmful for the trees:

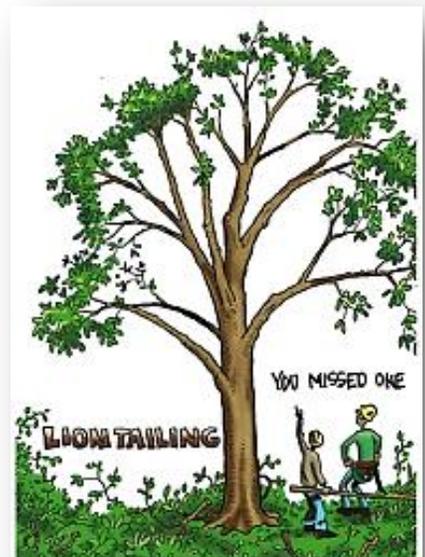
- ♦ This is a form of over-pruning, too much foliage is removed so that the

health of the tree could be jeopardized.

- ♦ Leaves too much weight at the end of the branch.
- ♦ Exposes the inner portion of the tree to sunburn and growth of watersprouts.
- ♦ May make your tree a hazard since the branches may become weak and break.
- ♦ Trees pruned according to ANSI A300 Part 1

Pruning standards cannot be lion's tailed because not more than 25% of foliage can be removed in a single year and 50% of the foliage should remain evenly distributed in the lower 66% of the canopy.

Please visit our website under "Trees" for more information and to see actual photos of trees trimmed by Festival Landscaping.



Lion tailing causes accelerated tip and sprout growth, resulting in poor ice and wind resistance. Thinning tip growth is a better alternative for "sprucing up" a tree's canopy.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.FestivalLandscaping.com

Meet the Crew

Christian Larsen is celebrating his 1 year anniversary with Festival Landscaping in February!

Thank you Christian for all you've done for Festival Landscaping and the residents of Festival Ranch!

▪ Christian Larsen,
Foreman



▪ Matthew Johnson,
Crew Member

▪ Shane Buffington,
Crew Member

▪ Jason Wanderi,
Foreman

▪ Gavin Becker,
Crew Member

Feel free approach any member of our team for questions or assistance with your landscape maintenance!

Fabulous Finds in Festival

The **Fishhook Barrel Cactus**, also called Arizona Barrel cactus or Compass Barrel, is a cylindrical barrel-shaped cactus with beautiful yellow to red-orange flowers that bloom during the summer months.

The common name comes from the spines which are thick and hooked. It typically grows to a diameter of about two feet and a height of three feet. Some have been recorded to grow as tall as ten feet!

This cactus is heat and frost tolerant and is a great addition to any xeriscape garden!



In adulthood, fishhook barrel cacti generally leans southward, toward the sun, earning it the nickname "compass barrel cactus."

FESTIVAL LANDSCAPING

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