



Special Interest Articles:

- Leaf Roller Caterpillars
- Website Updates
- Pre-Emergent Spraying

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Welcome to Our First Edition!

We're proud to announce the release of our first newsletter! This newsletter will be sent out to all our customers quarterly. Although we are starting mid-quarter right now, we'll begin our quarterly releases January 1, 2013.

There is a lot of information that we have which is very useful to homeowners and we want to share it with you.

We'll be providing seasonal updates on landscaping trends we're noticing within our community. In addition we'll provide tips and tricks to keeping your landscaping looking top notch between services.

We welcome suggestions and/or questions for upcoming editions of the newsletter. If you ask a question that we know everyone will want to know the answer to, it will

be included in the next newsletter!

Our objective is to help educate our clients about ways to care for their desert landscape. We sincerely hope you find our newsletter informative and helpful!

What's With My Water Bill?

This summer we received a number of calls with concerns about rising water usage. This was a direct result of two problems:

- Irrigation leaks
- Valves stuck on

Occasionally leaks are very obvious when the irrigation system is run. Unfortunately, in many cases there is no indication that there is a problem until the water bill arrives or Town of Buckeye calls you to find out why you are using so

much water!

Irrigation Leaks

When our homes were built and the irrigation was installed, most irrigation installers used a 1/2" poly line tubing as our main line throughout our yards. On average this poly line has about a 5 - 7 year life before it begins cracking and leaking regularly.

As repairs become more frequent you may need to replace large sections of line or do an entire replacement throughout the yard. You may decide

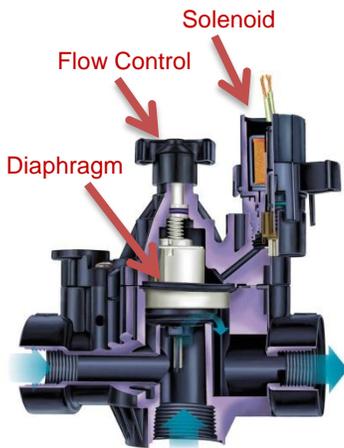
to do an entire replacement using Schedule 40 PVC which lasts almost indefinitely! This PVC is much stronger and does not deteriorate the way the poly line does.

Valve Stuck On

Festival Ranch is still undergoing a lot of new home construction. When work is being done with the main water lines situations are created where foreign objects are entering our valves from the main water lines.

Continued...

What's With My Water Bill? *(Continued)*



We've seen everything from welders putty to wood stuck inside valves! In most cases this damages the diaphragm inside the valve. The picture to the left shows where the diaphragm is located. If this diaphragm does not close all the way (due to debris being lodged in there) it will continually leak.

You cannot hear it leaking and most times it is

dripping so slowly that no standing water is ever visible. During the summer months this water evaporates exceptionally fast.

If you suspect you have a leak or damage to your valve please notify us immediately and we can provide a service call to remedy the situation. The sooner it's caught the better!



Valves for irrigation systems are located underground usually near the irrigation control box.



"I have grown these beautiful shrubs for over 14 years and have never seen this before - not even in landscapes I managed or when consulting."

Noelle Johnson,
Horticulturist
Azplantlady.com

Leaf Roller Caterpillars

This year we noticed something strange happening with everyone's Orange and Yellow Bells. They went from lush and beautiful to having skeletonized, rolled leaves with black dots all over them. Yuck!

After some research we were able to find out that we had been hit by Leaf Roller Caterpillars. We did receive higher than normal rainfall this

summer which helped everything grow fuller and lusher. This may have attracted these pests but there's no way to know for certain.

There are a few different ways to treat them.

- Treat your shrubs with a natural pest spray such as EcoSmart Garden Pest Control or BT (bacillus thuringiensis).
- Prune off the affected

growth

- Use a insecticide spray on the plant or a systemic insecticide which is absorbed through the roots.

We have found that simply trimming off the affected growth has worked great.

Most of these shrubs have already begun to leaf out and are recovering nicely!

Festival Landscaping Website Updates

Have you visited our website recently? Why not pay us a visit!

We've added a lot of information about Tree Trimming, Citrus Care, Plant and Tree Choices, Frost Prevention, Irrigation, Winter

Maintenance, and much more!

Our website is continually growing as we add new information related to your landscaping needs.

Questions and suggestions are always

welcome, and we'll see what we can do to get the information on there!

Happy Surfing!

www.FestivalLandscaping.com

Get Rid of Weeds BEFORE They Germinate!

Tis the season for weeds to start sprouting! The seeds of these nasty weeds lie in wait for the tiniest bit of moisture to trigger their germination!

But don't fear! Pre-Emergent can wipe out these seeds and keep them from germinating.

An overabundance of weeds will do two things:

- Yards will fill up with weeds between maintenance services making the yard look messy and unkept.
- It may increase maintenance costs over time if the weeds become overabundant.

What is pre-emergent?

It is a water based substance that when broadcast on your lawn or granite stops seeds from germinating. We use water based pre-emergent for better control.

How long is pre-emergent guaranteed to last?

The treatment is guaranteed to last a minimum of 6 months and can last up to a year with a 80-90% success rate.

Will pre-emergent leave a stain?

Temporarily. The color is called an indicator and

allows the applicator and client to know what has been sprayed and what hasn't. Unfortunately the color is built into the material at the factory and we don't get a choice in the matter. It fades away with sunlight in a few days.

For more information about pre-emergent and for pricing, please visit our website under "Weed Control."

If you'd like to schedule service please call Stacy at (623) 326-1445 or send us an email at: festivallandscaping@live.com



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Tree Trimming

Here's a topic I can't believe I'm tackling on the first edition of our newsletter. It can be very touchy for some but I truly believe it's because it's never been explained correctly. This will be the first in a series of articles on correct practices for tree trimming.

First let me start by saying **WE DO TRIM TREES!** We love our desert trees and want them to reach their full potential providing many years of enjoyment for

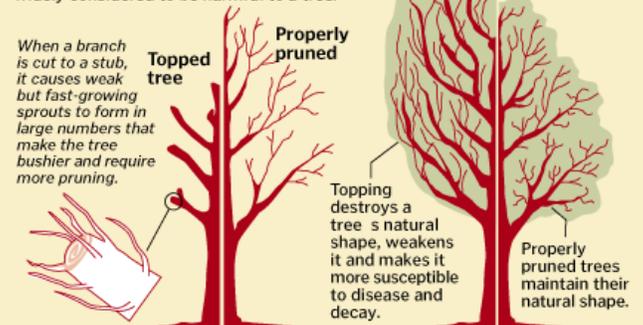
homeowners. Festival Landscaping practices tree pruning techniques in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture. That being said we do not top, round, or poodle trees.

The picture to the right provides insight as to why trees should not be topped.

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

Why you shouldn't top a tree

Topping is the term used when the main branches of a tree are trimmed to a stub. The practice is widely considered to be harmful to a tree.



Source: Dana Karcher, certified arborist with The Davey Resource Group, a division of The Davey Tree Expert Company

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"There is about 25 to 30 years of literature written on this common mistake explaining the harm effects that could envelop the tree, yet many continue to top trees, or request us to top trees."

Festival Landscaping

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.FestivalLandscaping.com

Meet the Crew

Festival Landscaping is truly excited to have a great group of individuals working with us this year.

It was a rough summer but these guys stuck it out! Here's who you'll be seeing and meeting as they continue working this winter with our company:

▪ Christian Larsen,
Foreman

▪ Matthew Johnson,
Crew Member

▪ Shane Buffington,
Crew Member

▪ Jason Wanderi,
Foreman

▪ Austin Jardine,
Crew Member

▪ Gavin Becker,
Crew Member

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

Fabulous Finds in Festival

Most of us are familiar with the Texas Sage or Green Cloud Sage which are shaped nicely in the yard and make wonderful hedges. However, the less often used **Chihuahuan Sage** is a great sampling of a more natural shaped shrub.

This is a beautiful evergreen shrub with light green foliage displays showy and fragrant lavender flowers summer and fall, over a longer bloom season than most. It is a Compact grower useful as a natural hedge or mixed in with xeriscape gardens.



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