

New This Month

Get ready for Arbor Day. Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. Arbor Day is the last Friday in April.

April "To Do's"

Fruit and Nut Trees

Plant Citrus Trees - It will generally be three years after transplant before fruit production and that is the same whether you plant a 2 year old tree or a 10 year old tree. Choose a smaller sized tree for better long-term health and growth.

Give special attention to deciduous fruit trees; provide adequate soil moisture for fruit sizing in the late April and May period.

Apply nitrogen and zinc to pecan trees to produce normal size leaf growth and to enhance kernel development. Pecans also need more water than most other

Landscape Plants

As the weather warms and days lengthen, adjust your irrigation timer to irrigate more frequently. Be sure to run your system long enough to wet the top two feet of soil. Deep, infrequent watering is much better than a daily sprinkling of water.

Allow your wildflowers to go to seed. They will produce a natural healthy feast for birds as well as reseeding themselves to come up again in your yard next year

Summer Annuals

Now is the season for planting summer annuals. It is best to plant annuals before the heat of summer so that the plants can become established and are well rooted in to the soil. Vinca, lantana, pentas, zinnia and celosia are great choices for sunny locations. Begonia and coleus do well in shady locations.

Turf

Begin transition of overseeded bermuda grass as described to the right.

Begin fertilizing Bermuda grass lawns during late April or early May. Follow labeled directions.

Monthly Manager's Feature

By: Nick Vigna III, West Valley Area Manager

Spring Lawn Conversion



In late March or early April, when warming begins, dormant bermuda begins to emerge.

Because of the competition between the 2 grasses (bermuda & rye), care should be taken to enhance the bermuda while antagonizing the rye. Keep in mind, the time to change from rye to bermuda is April through May. This can be done by doing the following:

1. Lower the Mowing Height

This takes away leaf area from the rye, which causes the rye to use up food reserves in the roots. This is known as burning out. The lower mowing height also opens up the canopy for direct heat absorption by the soil, which encourages bermuda grass growth.

2. Fertilize

A light application every 2 weeks of a water soluble nitrogen fertilizer is recommended. This might increase growth of the rye, so an additional mowing in the middle of the week may be necessary. This fertilizer application will weaken the rye grass in addition to reviving the dormant bermuda grass.

3. Reduce Irrigation

It is recommended that you reduce the amount of irrigation to stress the rye grass. Reducing the amount of water will help the bermuda grass out-compete the rye. Look for a grey blew coloration of the rye for visible signs of rye stress. Remember, your want to decrease the irrigation just enough to stress the rye but still allow the bermuda to grow. Do not shut off the irrigation altogether as this will cause damage to both grasses.

What to Watch For Next Month

In May, you should plan on fertilizing your Citrus Trees and Roses with a systemic fertilizer. Also, it is a great time to trim your mesquite and palo verde trees that have flowered to remove seed pods before they drop to the ground.

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