



OUR MISSION

It is the mission and continuous goal of Roark Landscaping Corporation to provide the customer with efficient, prompt, courteous, and complete landscape service while striving to fulfill the needs of each employee of the company. In turn, this will keep prices competitive, lower operating costs, create a grateful clientele, and thus lead to referrals and company growth.



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Low water use perennials--names quiz

These perennials are often found in the Southwestern states. Most are hardy to USDA zones 7-8. Many are wildflowers. Unlike perennials of eastern states, most of these are evergreen or semievergreen, often with a long bloom period. Match the common with scientific name. Answers on page 2

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Desert Marigold | a. <i>Baileya multiradiata</i> |
| 2. Chocolate Flower | b. <i>Penstemon eatonii</i> |
| 3. Firecracker Penstemon | c. <i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i> |
| 4. Canyon Penstemon | d. <i>Berlandiera lyrata</i> |
| 5. Chaparral Sage | e. <i>Salvia clevelandii</i> |
| 6. Globe Mallow | f. <i>Zephyranthes candida</i> |
| 7. Rain Lily | g. <i>Salvia greggii</i> |
| 8. Jerusalem Sage | h. <i>Zauschneria californica</i> |
| 9. Hummingbird Trumpet | i. <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> |
| 10. Autumn Sage | j. <i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i> |

MULCH...A Little Work Now for Big Pay-Offs Later by Terri Veal

Hopefully by now you've got your crape myrtles pruned & ornamental grasses cut back in preparation for spring. You're not done yet! While seed heads & spent blooms provide winter interest & food for the birds, now is the time to clean those perennials up & divide if necessary. Every 3 years is a good rule of thumb to maintain a healthy size for plants like hostas, grasses and daylilies. Use the extra plants to create larger "drifts" of color for more impact. This is especially effective when used in beds located further out in the garden.



There is one more thing you can do right now that will have a *HUGE* impact on your landscape in the next few months. **MULCH!!** The value of a good thick layer of mulch cannot be overemphasized. Even if you have nothing in your beds but some boxwood and nandina, a fresh layer of mulch can make the most boring landscape look

good! Not only does it immediately improve the appearance of your landscape, but its benefits will continue throughout the season. Mulching helps to prevent weeds, maintain soil temperature, improve water retention, and protect against disease. We recommend maintaining a 2-4" layer for optimum results. The mulch should be kept approximately 3" away from the tree trunk or base of the plant(s) you're mulching. Avoid the "volcano" look of piling a thick layer up against tree trunks. Though you'll see this done often, it provides an opportunity for pests & diseases and is not recommended.

So before those summer annuals get planted, freshen up your mulch. By

August, you and your landscape will be glad you did! Of course, we're here to help. If you'd like assistance in determining how much or what kind of mulch to buy, or would simply like to schedule us to do it for you, please do not hesitate to call.

Turf & Ornamental by Doug Cook

Turf

We are beginning the second round on the pre emergent this month. It is very important that this application is watered in. This application provides an additional barrier against the crabgrass.



soon. If you are not on the plant health care program you can still sign up for one of these application. The fungicides are highly recommended on the photinia, laurels, euonymus, hollies, redbuds, and dogwoods. We also recommend fungicides on the fescue during warm rainy periods. If you have any questions feel free to call.



Plant Health

This month we will be wrapping up the dormant oil applications. Fungicide applications will begin



April Showers by Brian Schmittlein

April is a good time to get your sprinkler system up and running. During the spring, we have had adequate rains so far to keep the plants and turf watered. It is a good idea to prepare for the summer heat right now instead of when it arrives. There are several items that are necessary to check when the system is turned on and pressured up.

- ◆ Make sure the backflow is not leaking or cracked from freezing temperatures
- ◆ Be sure that every zone comes on when advanced by the timer
- ◆ As each zone comes on, check for leaks, lack of pres-

sure, and the spray heads and nozzles are pointed in the proper direction.

- ◆ Last, check the current time, start time, and time per zone is set

Generally, this time of year with the rain we are receiving, 2 or 3 times a week watering is sufficient and I normally water spray heads at 12 minutes per zone and rotors I water at 30 minutes per zone. This will work in most cases but soil type, slopes, amount of sunlight, and types of plants and turf all play a factor when it comes to setting the running time per zone and the number of days per week.



Answers to quiz:

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. c
5. e
6. j
7. f
8. i
9. h
10. g

We are still collecting information for auto-debit payments. If you are interested in this convenient payment option, please contact Cheryl at 294-3322 or e-mail to: cheryl@rlctulsa.com so that we can send you the appropriate form and let us help you get started simplifying your life today!