

# RLC NEWS

June 2009

**Roark**  
**LANDSCAPING**  
corporation

## 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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## **Accessorize Your Landscape With Containers** **by Terri Richards**

Containers are a fun & easy way to give your patios pizzazz for the summer. They're also a great way to fill gaps in your landscape when something has died or a group of perennials has quit blooming. And, if you don't have time to plant flowers, a grouping of colorful containers can be an easy alternative. Think of containers as the accessories of your landscape, much in the same way that lamps, pillows and pictures complete the overall look of a room. The choices & possibilities are endless, so here are a few tips & suggestions:

- Larger containers retain moisture longer; clay pots lose moisture the quickest since they are porous
- Make sure the container will drain adequately—you will need to drill holes if there are none
- Soil-less potting mixture works best; plan to fertilize often
- Try to use something tall as your center piece, then surround with some mid-size filler plants, and tuck in trailing plants to spill over the edges; contrasts in foliage color & texture create added interest
- Consider using perennials mixed in with annuals for color—Ferns, Hostas, scented Geraniums, and Heucheras make wonderful accents & can be left in the pots to come back next year or transplanted to the garden at the end of the season
- Containers are a great solution to growing plants that critters in your garden love as much as you do! I've given up on planting Hostas in my yard, but the gophers can't get to them in a pot
- If you have a sprinkler system & you place your containers near an existing spray head, you can have drip tubing & emitters installed to water your containers automatically; if you're leaving town & don't have emitters watering your pots, move them to an area where they will be watered by the sprinkler system



Use your imagination! Get daring & try something new this year besides a pot full of geraniums. Of course, we'd be happy to help with your creative endeavors anyway we can.

## Turf & Ornamental by Doug Cook

Summer is finally here. Now that there is adequate heat and sunshine we are in the process of fertilizing the bermuda and zoysia grasses. We are also doing the final summer feeding on the fescue. The fertilizer we are using will provide optimum top growth and feed the root system adequately. The fertilizer needs to be watered within 2 days of the application. Any weeds in the



turf will be spot treated also.

This month we will be fertilizing the azaleas for those of you on the plant health care program. The fertilizer we use is a slow release fertilizer that feeds the shrub and helps next years bloom be the best it can be. We have insecticide mixed in providing knockdown on the lace bugs as well as a lasting residual affect. If you are not on the plant health care program and wish to have your azaleas fertilized, call into the office to have this scheduled. June is the only month of the year where the fertilizer affects next years bloom.

## Maintenance by Brian Schmidtlien



The heat and humidity are here. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far and finding ways to stay cool. High temperatures and bright sunlight can be very damaging, especially combined with low moisture levels in the soil. Heat damage causes wilting, scorching, and withering of the

plant due to moisture loss from both the plant and the soil. Adding organic matter to the soil will encourage moisture retention. Also, be sure to choose plants that can tolerate sunny, hot, and dry conditions. These types of plants have their own way of retaining moisture.

Be careful though, because hot and humid areas that stay wet will encourage mildew and fungus problems.

Areas that receive a lot of sunshine and are not cooled by winds will become very hot and dry. An example of this would be where two walls meet to make a corner. The wall absorbs the heat and gradually releases heat back into the corner. Breezes are often blocked and have little cooling effect. Soils in these areas are extremely important and plants need a higher amount of organic matter to retain moisture and a thick layer of mulch.



We are still collecting information for auto-debit and credit card payments. If you are interested in either of these convenient payment options, please contact Cheryl at 294-3322 or e-mail to: [cheryl@rlctulsa.com](mailto:cheryl@rlctulsa.com) so that we can send you the appropriate forms and let us help you get started simplifying your life today!