

*Going Green with
San Bernardino County*

California Friendly Landscaping Update July 31/08



Water Usage/Grass update # 1
Water usage for the month of July is:
43,550 gals/ Grass & Planters

The **RTF** is watered 24 mins/night every 3 days,
Marathon I & III, watered 16 mins/night, **Superior**
and **Bonsai** ,watered 14 mins/night .

Turf	Water Hrs/ Month	Water Gals/ Month
RTF	4.5	4127.2
Superior	6.4	5913.6
Marathon III	6.9	6375.6
Bonsai	6.9	6375.6
Marathon I	7	6498.8

Around the Facilities Garden

Turf Update

The **RTF** turf, is the turf of the month for July; it is using less water than the other turf plots and it looks just as good.

RTF is the middle plot of the three plots along Lena Road



Plant Update

The plant of the month feature on the back page is the **Chitalpa** tree, this has done very well since it was planted, (this was the first plant, that we planted in our landscape, back in April). It has bloomed consistently, and will continue to bloom through fall.

Come visit and see the other plants that are blooming right now, notably the **Choke cherry**, it has some gorgeous white flowers mixed with it's green and purple leaves. Both of our butterfly bushes have taken well, the **Wooly butterfly bush** (the one with the orange flowers shaped into balls), and the **Honeycomb butterfly bush**, this is so called as the flowers form a honeycomb shape.

For a very fast growing (that can become invasive) ground covering plant, check out the **Yarrow** with it's flowers of many colors, this plant is thriving.

Also look at the **Humming bird Salvia**, so called because it is a magnet for humming birds, this plant has flower stems that rise 2-3ft above leaves, carrying many large whorls of 2-in, magenta or rosy red flowers.

Interesting fact: red is a favorite color of Humming birds.

Green Tips

Water wise

- Water at night or early morning to avoid evaporation. Most people over water. Shorter, more frequent watering is best.
- Limit turf. Grass is the biggest water hog of all. Set your lawnmower to cut higher. The longer grass blades will shade and cool the roots.
- Adjust sprinkler heads to water plants only—not sidewalks, patios, driveways or streets. Check your sprinkler heads and valves.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

How much mulch do I need?

Bulk quantities of organic mulch are sold by the cubic yard. Determine how many square feet you want to cover (multiply the area's length by it's width), then consult the chart below.

2 to 4 inches of mulch is the depth recommended by most landscape books.

To cover this area	2 in deep	3 in deep	4 in deep
100 square feet	2/3 cubic yard	1 cubic yard	1 1/3 cubic yards
250 square feet	1 2/3 cubic yards	2 1/2 cubic yards	3 1/3 cubic yards
500 square feet	3 1/3 cubic yards	5 cubic yards	6 1/3 cubic yards
1,000 square feet	6 2/3 cubic yards	10 cubic yards	13 1/3 cubic yards

Plant of the Month

Chitalpa tashkentensis “Pink Dawn”



Growing rapidly to 20-30 ft tall and wide, this tree combines the larger flowers of its *Catalpa bignonioides* parent with the desert toughness and flower color of *Chilopsis linearis*, its other parent. Leaves are 4-5 in. long, 1 in. wide. Erect clusters of frilly, trumpet shaped flowers in pink, white or lavender appear from late spring to fall.

Requires: Full sun. Little to moderate water.

Sunset zones 3-24. (More on Sunset zones next update).

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