



Spring 2012

GOING GREEN

in Turlock...

GREEN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



R & D LANDSCAPING AND TREE SERVICE

Keeping Trees Plentiful in Turlock

This month's interview is with Robert Hernandez, owner of R&D Landscaping and Tree Service. Based in Turlock, Robert has created a business plan that is integrated with sustainable landscaping practices. He believes that being green is a good way to build a successful, profitable business as well as help his customers add more value to their property. Robert's company provides commercial and residential landscaping, tree removal, stump grinding, trimming, tree replacing, concrete work and underground construction work.

R&D Landscaping and Tree Service has developed a meaningful way to give back to the environment and to his clients. Robert has pledged that for each tree he removes, whether it is too old, too big, sick or dead, he will replace it with a tree better suited for our region's climate and soil type, for FREE! (To continue reading, visit the City's website at:

<http://ci.turlock.ca.us/citydepartments/municipalservices/gogreen/greenbusinessspotlight.asp>

R&D LANDSCAPING

PO Box 2398
Turlock, CA 95381
(209) 634-8863

If your business or another business that you may be aware of, practices exemplary greening procedures and you feel should be featured in the Green Business Spotlight, contact the City of Turlock, Municipal Services Department at 209.668.5590 today!

*The "Green Business Spotlight" does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by the City of Turlock of related goods or services of the featured business. The City of Turlock does not endorse and makes no representations, explicit or otherwise concerning any individual business in Turlock. Businesses featured in the "Green Business Spotlight" shall not be considered an endorsement of the advertiser, or of the product or service involved.

Be sure to check out the next Green Business Spotlight's featured company

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

May 20th ~ May 26th, 2012

Visit the City's Booth at the Farmer's Market for games, prizes, refreshments and to let the kids tour the different heavy equipment used in City operations every day!

Friday, May 25th

8:00am ~ 1:00pm

(Corner of Broadway and Main Street)



Springtime is here...



PLEASE WATER WISELY

The City of Turlock Municipal Services Department would like to remind customers that due to meter-based water billing, your landscape water use will affect your monthly bill.

For suggestions on how to use water efficiently in the yard, visit the City of Turlock's Go Green page of the City's website at www.cityofturlock.org/gogreen, and click on the water conservation tab on the right-side navigation bar.

THE CITY OF TURLOCK ALSO PROVIDES FREE RESIDENTIAL WATER AUDITS AND FREE SPRINKLER TIMER SET-UPS FOR CUSTOMERS!

For more info or to schedule an appointment, call the City of Turlock Municipal Services Department

(209) 668-5590

How To Make The Most When Watering Your Garden

By John Goldsmith, Master Gardener, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), Davis, CA

Now that the rainy season is officially over and we are turning on our watering systems, it is important to consider water conservation as a top priority. Appropriate watering is essential to the health of a plant – did you know that most plants die from OVER watering? Also, Turlock residential water bills are no longer a flat rate, but on based on actual water consumption as measured by your water meter. The more water you use, the more you will pay.

As summer approaches, demands on our local aquifer will be pressed into service to supply our many indoor water needs, as well to provide adequate water for our perennial garden beds and lawns. Using your water wisely in the garden is actually easy, and by following some simple guidelines, you will have a gorgeous garden and a manageable water bill.

One of the easiest ways to start is to ask a professional! Did you know that the City of Turlock's, Municipal Services Department offers a free 'water audit' for its residents. A trained Water Auditor will come to your home and provide personalized advice on how to reduce water use at home. Call 668-5590 to schedule an appointment. In the meantime, here are five important steps to start conserving water right now:

1. Adopt the philosophy of "Right Plant, Right Place". Not all plants have the same requirements, whether it is watering needs, soil type or sun exposure. Some plants like ferns, prefer a moist soil in a northern, shady part of the garden, whereas succulents love full sun with minimal water. More folks are getting interested in planting California natives because they are beautiful and provide food and habitat for beneficial insects and

birds. Once the native plant is established, it may need only an occasional shower or no supplemental water at all. Simply plant it – and enjoy it!

2. An excellent source for estimating irrigation needs of landscape plantings in California can be found at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/wucols00.pdf>. Here you will find a free 160 page PDF with all your answers!

3. Mulch. This is one of the very best methods to build healthy soil. It creates a harmonious environment, brimming with important microbes. The microbes assist plants by transporting essential nutrients into the plants' roots. Mulch also prevents the plant from getting stressed from the heat by shielding the soil from the harsh sun, preventing evaporation of water, and keeping the soil cooler. There

are so many types of mulch to choose from, and you can pick and choose based on aesthetics or your pocket book. The important thing is to cover the exposed soil with 2-3 inches with mulch.

4. Drip. Better than overhead sprayers, drip irrigation systems provide water right to the targeted plant. With sprayers, so much of the water evaporates in the air and the water coverage is unreliable. By using drip emitters, the gardener is able to fine tune water quantity for each plant, with the goal of minimizing water as the plants mature. Although many gardeners are a little scared of all the equipment, piping, timers, etc. it really isn't that complicated to install it yourself. If you want you want it initially set up

To continue reading visit: <http://ci.turlock.ca.us/citydepartments/municipalservices/gogreen/intheyard.asp>

To remove your name from our mailing list or for questions and/or comments– send an email to TCordell@turlock.ca.us

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