

The Scoop from the Soil Up

May-June Edition

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Here's an idea for Dad!

With Mother's Day just passed, it may be a good idea to start thinking about what we're going to get our dads for the approaching Father's Day. Here's a thought: have a landscape design installed for him that he's sure to enjoy far beyond June 17. A backyard fire pit will prove to be the center of social events, from midday barbeques to midnight chats. The ground cover could be a brick paver deck or an inexpensive alternative of gravel contained by a low retaining wall. Limestone rocks will keep the fire in and tiki torches will keep the mosquitoes out. As you can see in the picture to the right, the juxtaposition of a fire pit next to a pond with a waterfall can be just the equation for a gift of serenity and fun. Though this is just one idea, you will soon find that the limits when giving the gift of a beautiful landscaped yard are endless.



Tips and Tricks to Optimize your New Landscaping

1. While it is important to keep your plants hydrated and well nourished, whether through good soil quality or fertilization, anything in excess, even for plants, can be detrimental. In terms of watering, be sure to check with rain schedules, that you don't overwater. Likewise, always follow the advice of your landscape specialist for which kind of fertilizer to use and the directions on your fertilizer to be sure not to over fertilize.
2. Leaving grass clippings on your lawn can actually benefit it in a few ways: they add nutrients back to the lawn in a recycling manner, for example reducing the amount of nitrogen needed for the lawn. This trick is good when the amount of grass clippings left are moderate, as heavy clumps will smother your lawn, rather than help it.
3. Check with your landscape specialist before fertilizing your palm trees. Depending on what type of palm it is, it may not need regular fertilization at all,

or it could need it every month and a half throughout the palm's growing season. Even these palms, however, may have a root ball that has nutrients in it already, something that your landscape specialist would be sure to know. If you find you do need to fertilize, don't apply it close to the trunk. Instead, cultivate the area around the palm lightly to incorporate the fertilizer into the soil, and then water it in deeply.

Thank you for reading *The Scoop*. If you have any landscaping-related questions, please email info@albrightlandscaping.com and your question and answer will appear in the next issue of *The Scoop from the Soil Up*.

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