

Something To Be Learned

I would like to thank Doug Bennett, the Conservation Manager for the SNWA for his comment on the SLAM article last month about turf disease. Doug's degree is in Agricultural Pest Management and he offered the following insight into the issue; "Make sure to recommend appropriate cultural practices before turning to a pesticide. Most pesticides used in the urban environment are inappropriately (wrong reason) or improperly (wrong dose/application) applied. Homeowners should be discouraged from using them unless it is absolutely necessary. Here's a decent reference:



<https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/2010/fs1070.pdf> ”

Learning new things and sharing our knowledge with those around us is why human beings have been able to progress. Clinging to the past or doing it the way that it has always been done is a dead end road. I recently had a client that insisted that their way was the only way. Our experienced and diverse design team repeatedly showed them how the design would work so much better if the layout incorporated all the knowledge and information gathered over many years from many different sources. The client's response was that they had seen it done this way before and that is how it's going to be done this time. Unfortunately, an opportunity to create something better was wasted.

Thank you, Doug for sharing your knowledge. There is always something to be learned. There is always a better way to do things. This concept can be applied to design, relationships, your profession or any aspect of life. As we learn and apply correct principals, we moved forward, life becomes more enjoyable and our sphere of influence increases. Progressive people are attracted to those with new ideas. They then share their knowledge, the new ideas get even better and the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts. Keep on learning.

"I want to say something so embarrassing about September that even the leaves start blushing and turning red."
— Jarod Kintz

FAVORITE FLORA: DASYLIRION LONGISSIMUM - MEXICAN GRASS TREE



Dasylyrion longissimum can be grown in full sun to partial shade, requires little water and is cold tolerant to around 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Mexican Tree Grass is an easy plant to grow requiring very little care. It can be grown in a wide range of conditions as long as it has well drained soil. This succulent can be grown in containers or out in the landscape. Its size and shape make it a great focal point especially at night when lit with appropriate landscape lighting. Mature specimens develop a trunk which can be revealed by removing any brown, dead leaves. This versatile plant can be grown in combination with tropical or desert plants.

The friendly cousin of the Desert Spoon (*Dasylyrion wheeleri*), the Mexican Grass Tree (*Dasylyrion longissimum*) has a similar and perhaps grander look without the toothy leaves. This evergreen succulent can reach 4 to 6 feet wide and heights for older specimens can reach 12 feet tall. Its long, green leaves are smooth and flexible without any of the serrated edges or sharp points of other *Dasylyrion*'s. Older plants bloom annually in the summer, growing an 8 to 9 foot wall spike topped with red buds that turn in to green to white flowers.

Photo of the Month



Rural Sunset
Saaf, Giza, Egypt
Sarah Cosette