

Congratulations Are In Order

We are privileged to have another landscape architect on our staff. Matt Durham has been with our firm since 2007 and has shared his talents in design and graphics on numerous projects. He now holds Nevada PLA license number 895. This comes as a belated congratulation since Matt received his license earlier this year. Matt is the fourth PLA in our office and a graduate of the UNLV Landscape Architecture program. He spent time working for the Springs Preserve during the initial move of the Desert Demonstration Garden from across the street. His extensive knowledge of plants was further developed as he worked with the 3000 plus varieties of plants at the garden.



So many times we get requests to trim a bush or install an irrigation system. It is unfortunate that the general public doesn't understand what is involved in becoming a landscape architect and what it is that we do. Like any other profession, there is the minimum bachelor degree from an accredited landscape architecture school. After graduation, portions of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) can be taken immediately. Candidates are not eligible to take the rest of the test until after two years of working under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect. The LARE tests the candidates understanding of everything from history to business management to design of regional spaces, grading, structures, lighting, irrigation, and of course planting. Landscape architecture involves the design of all elements outside the four walls of a building. If you want your landscape installed, call a contractor.

So the next time you see Matt, talk to him on the phone or send him an email, congratulate him. He has worked very hard for this accomplishment.

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

FAVORITE FLORA:

JUNIPERUS HORIZONTALIS 'BLUE CHIP' - BLUE CHIP JUNIPER



This month's favorite flora comes from the Northern parts of the U.S. and from Canada. Although native to colder climates, with the right placement Blue Chip Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Blue Chip') can be a great addition to a Las Vegas landscape. Growing 8-12 inches tall, the blue chip can spread up to 5 feet with a 2-3 foot spread being more common in our climate. This evergreen groundcover has blue colored foliage which can look striking in a landscape. Blue Chip Juniper is drought tolerant once established but can also handle moist conditions. In Las Vegas, plant this groundcover in partial shade, although with additional

watering it can survive sunnier locations. As with most Junipers, the flowers and fruit are insignificant with this species leaving its landscape value to come from its foliage color.

Blue Chip Juniper is easily maintained and slow-growing. Prune to desired shape and size in late winter to keep it looking healthy. It can be planted as an individual plant or in mass to cover larger areas. This Juniper looks especially good in rock gardens or with plants with contrasting foliage color such as Variegated Maiden Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'variegatus') and Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquafolium*). There are over a 100 cultivars of this *Juniperus horizontalis* with some of the most popular being 'Wiltonii' and 'Bar Harbor' and some that just have questionable names such as 'Kay's Yellow Vomit'.



Photo of the Month

Morning Mist
Southern Hemisphere
Nicolette Fisk