

## TEAM SPOTLIGHT Jim Blacketer

We would like to introduce you to our Corona Branch Manager, Jim Blacketer. Jim has over 30 years' experience in the landscape industry. He spent the first half of his career in the golf course management field as a superintendent at several inland empire courses, focusing on turf and tree care.

Over the last fifteen years, he has worked in the commercial landscape industry in the positions of Project Director, Account Manager, Operations Manager, and Branch Manager. Jim is a hands on, customer service oriented leader who is always searching for ways to improve his team's efficiencies in landscape quality and response to customer needs.

He has a Certificate in Turfgrass Management from UCR Extension, is a Certified Arborist, Certified Urban Forester, Certified Landscape Technician, Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor, Certified Water Manager, and holds a Qualified Applicator License in the use of pesticides.



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## Turf Grass Maintenance

As most of you know all of the turf grass in our area is of a Tall Fescue blend, which is a cool season grass type that thrives in areas with cold freezing winters and very hot summers. This variety of turf does most of its growing from early spring to late fall and if not maintained properly could go a little dormant during the winter months if not fertilized properly. This type of turf grass needs to be fertilized at least four times a year with a balanced fertilizer throughout the year.

During the spring and summer months you should always mow your lawn once a week and you can reduce that amount to every other week in the fall and the winter based on plant growth (some lawns vary). You should also maintain your lawn mower blades keeping them sharp for a nice clean cut. A dull or damaged mower blade could cause harm to your lawn as it will be pulling on the grass blades causing stress to the lawn. A good rule of thumb when maintaining a lawn is to always mow it a little lower in the fall and winter (about 2" - 2 ½") and a little taller in the spring and summer (about 3" - 3 ½").

May is the best time to prevent some of this year's, and most of next year's June bugs. Right now the immature larvae are found in your lawn feeding on the roots of your grass. Use a granular grub control product labeled for "season long" protection. You will kill the immature grubs before they become June bugs, and hopefully kill any eggs that your neighbors June bugs lay in your yard later this summer.

As daytime temperatures will stay over 80 degrees, we should stop using broad leaf weed control sprays in our yards. Spraying for weeds while the temperature is high will put your turf at risk for damage.

Please keep in mind that our current water restrictions do not allow us to maintain our turf grasses as we did in the past, so summer months will be a challenge moving forward.



## IRRIGATION & DROUGHT UPDATE

As we move into the summer months, irrigation will become a premium as the drought status has not changed since last year's mandatory reductions. Below are links to the local water agencies and their updated drought stage status regarding outdoor watering:

- **Eastern Municipal Water**  
District moved from Stage 4c to 4b, outdoor budgets decreased 30% and elimination of Tier 3 billing. [www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org)
- **Western Municipal Water**  
District currently has outdoor watering budgets decreasing by 30%. [www.wmwd.com](http://www.wmwd.com)
- **Rancho California Water**  
District currently in Stage 4a, outdoor watering reduction by 30% and elimination of Tier 3 billing. [www.ranchowater.com](http://www.ranchowater.com)
- **Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District** currently allows 2 days of outdoor watering and has a drought surcharge rate on bill. [www.evmwd.com](http://www.evmwd.com)
- **City of Corona** currently in Stage 3, watering on specific days per addresses and allotted a maximum of 10 minutes per sprinkler system at 2 cycles max.  
[www.discovercoronadwp.com](http://www.discovercoronadwp.com)

Over the last several years we have reduced water use by the **millions!** Contact Ty Jaglowski at 951.326.7736 or via email at [tj@eclmi.com](mailto:tj@eclmi.com) to find out how we can help your community manage through these restrictions.

## Proper Tree Care and Trimming

### Tree Care and Proper Trimming Schedules

Summer is here, and trees have special needs during this time of year. While minor pruning, and removal of deadwood can be done at any time of year, major pruning on most species of trees should be avoided during the warmer months. Also, with the ongoing drought, trees stressed due to a lack of water should not be pruned even in the cooler months until they show signs of recovery.

Timing of tree pruning can be critical for certain species of trees to promote flowering. For trees that bloom in spring, wait until all flowers have faded and then prune lightly. Trees that bloom through the late summer should be pruned in the winter. Before doing any pruning, it is wise to identify the species to be pruned, and research their specific needs.

The pruning of deciduous trees (trees that go dormant in the winter), should be avoided when they are leafing out in the spring and when they are losing their leaves in the fall. During both of these periods, trees are expending stored energy, and pruning also causes the tree to react in a way that expends more stored energy. It is best to prune these trees during the winter, when they are leafless.

### Environmental Concepts Landscape Management, Inc.

PO Box 1788  
Temecula, CA 92593  
Phone 951.587.6551  
Fax 951.587.6771  
[www.eclmi.com](http://www.eclmi.com)

Follow us on [www.facebook.com/eclmi/](https://www.facebook.com/eclmi/)



Pines in our area are very susceptible to drought and pest attacks. They should never be pruned during the warmer months, as this can lead to sap flow which often attracts pests like Bark Beetles. These pests are very active during the summer and easily move from tree to tree. Leave pine pruning to the cooler months also.

One species that should be pruned during the summer is the palms. Most of these generate flowers and fruit through the spring and early summer. When the fruit have stopped expanding, usually by June or July, which is a good time to prune the palm. At this time, all dead or dying fronds should be removed also. No green fronds should be removed. This timing prepares the palms for the fall windy season, as they are free of heavy fruit and dead fronds that can be dislodged in winds.

Prune with a purpose at all times. Know your species and their specific pruning needs. More information on tree pruning can be found at: [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org).

