



*planting ideas*™

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## Money Matters

### Tree Prices on the Rise

In 2008, when the housing market crashed, the demand for trees dropped dramatically and tree growers began suffering from over-supply. Growers responded by cutting prices to 30-year lows, and by reducing new tree-planting, which has declined by 70-80% since that time. The impact of this response has recently become evident, with many trees becoming scarce. Just as the housing bubble masked the over-supply of trees, the slow economy is masking the shortage. Even a modest resumption in new construction will be difficult to supply.

It is important for businesses to know what is coming. When scarcities become prevalent, prices will return to their former levels, and beyond. Tree shortages may be much closer than we realize. Buyers should be prepared for price increases in the fall of 2011 with larger increases in 2012, and 2013.

For more info: [www.boldspring.com/node/19](http://www.boldspring.com/node/19)



A typical raingarden

## What's a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a planted depression that allows rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots, and compacted lawn areas the opportunity to be absorbed. This reduces rain runoff by allowing storm water to soak into the ground (as opposed to flowing into storm drains and surface waters which causes erosion, water pollution, flooding, and diminished groundwater). They can be designed for specific soils and climates. The purpose of a rain garden is to improve water quality in nearby bodies of water. Rain gardens can cut down on the amount of pollution reaching creeks and streams by up to 30%.

Native plants are recommended for rain gardens because they generally do not require fertilizer and are more tolerant of one's local climate, soil, and water conditions, and attract local wildlife such as native birds. The plants — a selection of wetland edge vegetation, such as wildflowers, sedges, rushes, ferns, shrubs and small trees — take up excess water flowing into the rain garden. Water filters through soil layers before entering the

### Overall benefits

Creates a visually pleasing landscape, attracts birds & butterflies to your property, cultivates diverse plant life, and reduces stormwater runoff.

Keeps stormwater out of streams & lakes, reduces water pollution, and improves water quality

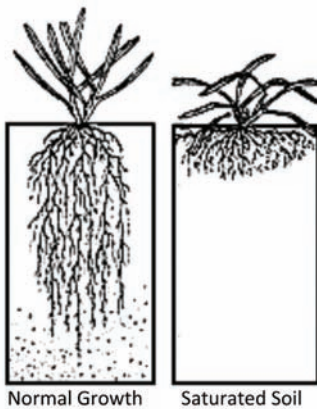
groundwater system. Root systems enhance infiltration, maintain or even augment soil permeability, provide moisture redistribution, and sustain diverse microbial populations involved in bio-filtration. Also, through the  
**(Continued on back page)**

# We make you and your property look great

## After the rain

By Dan Stever

Landscapes are living and dynamic; responding to the environment in various ways. This wet spring has set the stage for abiotic and biotic problems to emerge later in the season. Saturated soils prevent plants from sending roots deep into the ground. Rather the roots stay close to the surface. This causes problems later when the weather turns hot and dry because the plants have not developed protections against drought. The cooler wet weather has also encouraged many plants to put on lush growth which, in combination with shallow roots, will cause the plants greater stress in the hot dry weather of summer. Expect to see many more plants than usual display drought stress symptoms



like wilting, leaf burn and leaf drop.

Some types of insects, fungi and pathogens have greatly benefited from the excess moisture. Expect scale insects to be more problematic on woody plants. Root and foliar diseases will be especially prevalent which is bad for plants like hollies and native dogwoods that were already struggling after last year's wet spring and dry summer. The wet spring conditions are likewise favorable to fire blight and apple scab which damage flowering crabapples. The list of potential biotic and abiotic problems is long. Contact your Account Manager to find out more on developing site specific Integrated Pest Management strategies to protect your landscape investment.

## Thoroughbred plant: *Lantana hybrids*

By Whitney Baker

We hadn't been off the plane for long. I was looking forward to seeing Southern California, but first we had to get out of dusty, drought-stricken urban Los Angeles. I was exhausted from riding coach all the way from Lexington, my knees up by my ears. As I looked out the taxi window with tired eyes, everything seemed to be grayish-brown. Then I saw it, growing out of pure gravel and dust, naked to the burning sun but reveling in it: a blooming Lantana.



orange, yellow, pink, red, or peach. It is pest and disease free. Upright or spreading, Lantana covers a lot of distance in a season, blooming all the while.

Lantana is native to the tropical range. The straight varieties of the species set large, berry-like seeds after each bloom, effectively shutting down flowering for long periods. Breakthroughs in breeding have resulted in sterile plants that do not set seed, resulting in continuous bloom.

Lantana is not the perfect annual, its lax form being the only serious criticism. But for these two eyes one summer in LA, or for your tough spot where even crabgrass is shy, we've got your plant.

For properties without irrigation, with poor soil, for islands in un-shaded parking lots, Lantana comes to the rescue in white,

## Backflow theft deterrents



Secure backflow



Unsecure backflow

By Seth Johnson

Over 10,000 cases of backflow theft are reported each year. As copper prices hit all-time highs, odds point towards the number of theft cases increasing each year.

Here are 3 security devices that deter theft:

**1. Fence it In-** A small chain-linked fence or steel cage can be built to surround your backflow device.

**Pros-** will deter would be thieves

**Cons-** eye sore

**2. Locking Mechanism-** Several devices are currently available for consumers to choose from. Most locking

devices consist of steel bands wrapping the backflow device, with the bands attached to a steel cable that sits in 80lbs of concrete beneath the surface.

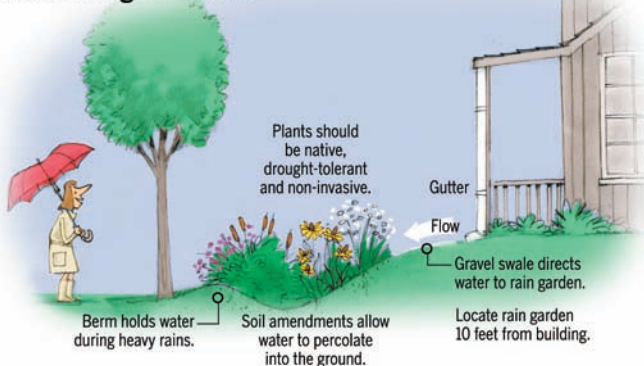
**Pros-** extremely effective  
**Cons-** Costly

**3. Quick Couplings-** The quick couplings allow for complete backflow removal. Removing and storing while not in use prevents the theft from ever occurring.

**Pros-** Backflow is not accessible during months when thefts occur.

**Cons-** Backflow must be stored and can be damaged in transport.

## How a rain garden works



(Continued from front page)

process of transpiration, rain garden plants return water vapor to the atmosphere. A more wide-ranging definition covers all the possible elements that can be used to capture, channel, divert, and make the most of

the natural rain and snow that falls on a property. The whole garden can become a rain garden, and all of the individual elements that we deal with in detail are either components of it, or are small-scale rain gardens in themselves.