



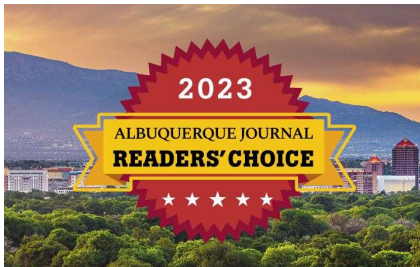
Time March-es on...

A new month brings a new to-do list and March, with its blustery weather and onset of spring, brings calendar milestones. Here are a few:

- March 13: *National Ear Muff Day*
- March 16: *National Panda Day*
- March 17: *St. Patrick's Day*. According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Trinity.
- March 20: *First day of spring or the March equinox*- also called the vernal or spring equinox- marks the beginning of spring. On this day, the sun stands directly over the earth's equator, providing nearly equal periods of day and night.
- March 22: *Ramadan begins at sundown*. In Islam, Ramadan is considered a holy month when a month-long, sunrise-to-sunset fast is observed.

Happy March and enjoy the Madness!

We need your Help! (a/k/a It's that time of year again...)



Yes, it's time again to nominate your favorite landscaping and sprinkler repair company for the Albuquerque Journal Readers' Choice Awards. Between now and March 30th, please click on the following link

abqjournal.com/readers-choice

Then simply click on the "Home & Real Estate" Section (box) and scroll until you see "Landscaping", then click to nominate WaterQuest, Inc. Keep scrolling and you'll find "Sprinklers"- please click again to nominate WaterQuest, Inc. in this category also.

Thank you for taking the time to nominate WaterQuest, Inc. in these two categories. After nominations close at the end of this month, voting will begin shortly thereafter. We'll reach out to you and

respectfully request you vote for WaterQuest, Inc. as your “readers’ choice” for great landscape and sprinkler company. Thank you for your help!



And now a word from Mrs. Mow It All...

Dear Mrs. Mow It All- Everyone around me is concerned with “March Madness”, including Selection Sunday and filling out their brackets. While I too am an avid college hoops fan, I am more concerned about mulching my yard. Do you have any tips on how and when to mulch? Sign me, “*Mulch Madness*”

Dear *Mulch Madness*- Just as an FYI to my readers, mulching helps soil retain moisture by shading the earth and acting as a blanket. It means water can be stored more effectively in the ground, so the soil remains loose and will not dry out too quickly. Mulching also helps plants to grow by forming a protective layer against heavy rain and cold temperatures, and will aid in suppressing or blocking weeds. And very importantly, mulch will make your garden bed and overall landscape look more attractive.

There are different types of mulch:

- ✓ *Organic Mulch*- this consists of bark (shredded or chipped), pine needles, grass clippings, newspaper, shredded leaves (nature’s favorite) and straw. Organic mulch will decompose and have to be replaced. The dryer and woodier the mulch, the slower it will decompose and the fewer nutrients it will give to the soil. I see you may be surprised that newspaper is listed. Most newspapers have switched over to soy-based black inks and hydrogen peroxide for bleaching pulp, but it’s best to stay away from colored or glossy inks. Shredded newspaper has been used for years to keep plant roots moist while shipping. Layered sheets of newspaper also have great moisture retention abilities, and they act like other organic mulches as far as suppressing weeds and controlling soil temperatures.
- ✓ *Inorganic Mulch*- this is synthetic mulch and not made of natural materials. It’s best used for fully blocking weeds, retaining water, and keeping longer than organic, but it doesn’t add value to the soil. Inorganic mulches include plastic and landscape fabric, as well as gravel and stone. On the plus side, these do not require replacing as often as organic mulches. I know you’re wondering about plastic and landscape fabric. These are good choices around foundation plantings and other shrubs and trees- plants that don’t require frequent fertilization. Note that plastic gets very hot in the summer and, besides smothering weed seeds, it can also kill all the good things in the soil, including plant roots and microbes, unless there is sufficient moisture. Be sure to cut holes in the fabric to allow sufficient water to pass through.

Pro Tip: The best time to put down mulch is in the spring when the weather is consistently warm. But you don’t want to put it down too early or you may accidentally bury emerging perennials. Mulch after weeding and after stripping off old mulch (do not add a layer of new mulch over a layer of old). Not

ready to take on “March Mulching” by yourself? Call WaterQuest today, #505-792-3600, to schedule a two-man crew to take care of your mulching, fertilizing and power raking your yard.



Gardening Hack of the Month...

Healthy Plant Hydration- Water settling at the bottom of pots can lead to root rot. To combat this problem, cut up old sponges and put them in the bottom of the pot. The sponges retain moisture and create necessary space. They also prevent water from flushing out the bottom. The sponge acts as a water reserve and keeps soil moist longer.