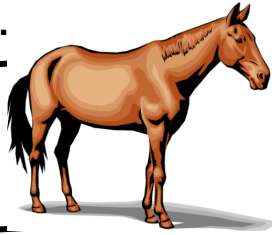


Notes from....



Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center

NOVEMBER 2016

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Winterization 2016

The annual winterization will begin October 31st starting in the front breezeway. From there, the work will move toward the park area, hopefully being done by early December. The normal bird's eye and decomposed granite (both \$49/scoop) will be brought in. In addition, we've also built a sizeable pile of reclaimed bird's eye (\$27/scoop) which is pretty similar to the "fresh" bird's eye, but just a whole lot cheaper.

New this year is the inclusion of sand that has also been "reclaimed". Over the last few months, we been experimenting with mixing it with the reclaimed bird's eye and have created a mixture that is more stable than just the bird's eye, but not as hard as the decomposed granite. Mixing the two allows the sand to fill the voids between the gravel, thus making it less likely to move under the weight of your horse's hoof. It seems that the sweet spot is 3 parts gravel: 1 part sand. This sand is also \$27 a scoop. So we are now including this option as well.

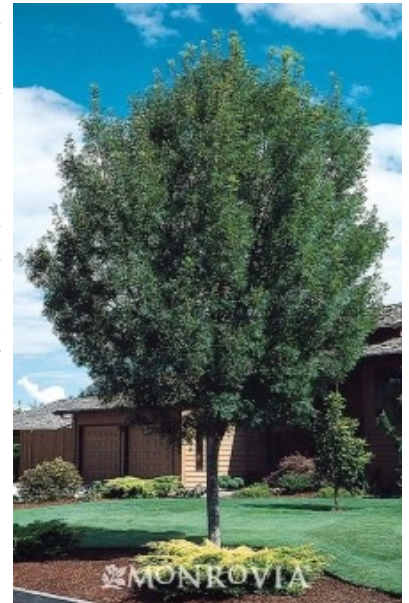
Now some folks might be thinking of using just the sand, but be aware that that it is pretty soft and won't support the weight of your horse very well. Secondly, there is the risk of sand getting into the intestinal tract as your horse eats. With the above 3:1 mixture, the sand "disappears" down into the voids of the gravel.

Please take time to either fill out the attached form, or email the office with your desires. Also here are links to two monographs on preparation for winterization if you need a reminder, or are unfamiliar with the winterization procedure.

[Zen and the Art of Stall Maintenance](#)

[Stable Winterization Guide](#)

The stable has now chosen its official tree. (Drum rollllllllllll), the Raymond Ash (or better known as *fraxinus oxycarpa*). This tree has many characteristics that make it ideal for the stable. It is deciduous so that more sun can warm and dry the stable in the winter months. It grows tall, so that long shadows will be cast in the hot summer months. Its dark green foliage is very pleasing to the eye, and lastly is drought resistant. Our first planting will be around the new arena, and from there we will slowly move out across the stable to replace existing distressed trees as well as to amend the overall tree population of the stable.



Arena Sprinkler Upgrades.

In the past, to assist the sprinklers in reaching the center of the arenas, we've added piping to extended them further into the arena space. The watering arc is around 200 degrees so they go from rail on the left to rail on the right. Unfortunately there has historically been a dry spot between the pole and the sprinkler head. This represents just a very small percentage of the of the area footing. But because the rail is used disproportionately, these dry spots are noticeable.

To fix this, in the last few months we have been experimenting with adding additional combinations of sprinklers to wet this small area under each existing arena. The six sprinklers in the front arena have now been updated. In the next few months we'll be moving to the back arena to do a similar upgrade.

