

cleanup crew

THIS AND THAT

Plant heists: Part 2

When we reported about the Brooklyn, NY, rash of plant thefts (see Grab Bag, July 1999), we thought the thieves were just a pocket of crazed urban Tom Thumbs overdosing on all the concrete they see, but apparently some California suburbanites have the same kleptomaniac urges. The *San Jose Mercury News* reports that healthy oleanders and Japanese maples have been disappearing in Atherton and Menlo Park, nearby communities.

To make matters worse, the thieves are suspected of "blending into the army of gardeners, landscapers and construction workers" in the area, says the *News*. Local growers suspect the culprits have green industry knowledge because they target trees of considerable value and make a point of keeping the root balls intact when they grab them.

Plant thieves have been known to swipe fruit trees from a nursery's demonstration landscape, as well as to peel off with Los Angeles-area palm trees. One grower even reports that some southern California homeowners actually chain their palm trees to metal stakes, hoping to deter the thieves.

Although we're not betting police will stake out those neighborhoods, it should seem logical that landscape crews usually bring plants to the customers, rather than haul them away, leaving a gaping hole in their place!

Click for lawn care, billing

Customers of Middleton Pest Control in Orlando, FL, have a new alternative for estimates and booking their services. Middleton's Web site, www.web-solvers.net/middleton, gives users instant estimates for lawn care services, based on less than 10 questions about lawn size, condition and services requested. The site even lets customers specify preferred treatment days and time, as well as information about locked gates or outside pets.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Way to go, Dave!

The Ohio State University recently honored David R. Mellor with its Young Professional Achievement Award. The award goes to four young men and women under the age of 35 for their early accomplishments in their careers and community involvement. Mellor, an OSU graduate, is assistant director of grounds for the Milwaukee Brewers and a former *Landscape Management* advisor. He now serves as advisor for our sister publication, *Athletic Turf*.

Gardeners' Guild garners award

Gardeners' Guild Inc. was selected as a 1999 WRAP winner by the San Rafael, CA, Waste Board. The Waste Board's WRAP awards are designed to recognize companies that develop creative and aggressive programs to reduce the amount of waste they generate.

"This year, we are really making a push to partner with our vendors," said Linda Novy, president and CEO of Gardeners' Guild. "Our staff is also encouraged to recycle everything it can. Managing waste saves money and resources, the key to sustainable business practices."

