



Green Landscaping

21st Century Eco-friendly Practices

For the past 20 years Gachina Landscape Management has been implementing “green” solutions for customers that create, maintain and sustain eco-friendly landscapes. For Gachina’s employees “going green” is all about making environmentally responsible decisions to reduce the impact on the environment through conservation, efficient use of resources and minimizing pollution. Customers can rest assured that our management, office employees and the certified landscape technicians in the field are all focused and participating on green initiatives to conserve natural resources and improve our planet’s environment.

Gachina’s mantra of Reduce, Conserve and Recycle is simple and evident in our work of planting and maintaining healthy landscapes for our customers as well as how we conduct business throughout our offices in the Bay Area. Here are just a few of our practices that enable Gachina to consume fewer resources and contribute to improving the overall health of the planet’s environment. Additional information can be found on our “Environmental Stewardship” page of our website at www.gachina.com.



Green Landscaping Practices

Water Conservation – A prime concern for both clients and Gachina is water conservation. We are taking a leading role to conserve water wherever possible through the use of drought tolerant plants, “smart” irrigation controllers and conducting irrigation water audits. Audits enable Gachina to quantitatively measure the effectiveness of an irrigation system and pinpoint deficiencies so water can be used more efficiently within a landscape. Water audits have also been found to allow for efficient programming of smart irrigation controllers enabling reductions in metered water use of 30 to 60%. Gachina has 3 certified master water auditors and 2 certified irrigation auditors on staff to perform water audits for customers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – Gachina deploys a system for monitoring levels of insect, weed, fungus and disease problems to determine the best course of action for control. In all cases, integrated pest management is used to minimize any use of chemicals that may be potentially harmful to the environment and pesticide applications are kept to a minimum to maximize plant health. Gachina holds a pest control operators license and has a pest control advisor on staff.

Sustainable Landscapes – Ecologically based programs are at the core of all sustainable landscape environments. These include the use of organic fertilizers and non-toxic pre-emergents that emphasize plant health and longevity. Sustainability comes through outdoor spaces that utilize fewer resources, are environmentally friendly and are self-perpetuating over time. They provide a harmonious relationship among components within the landscape and protect the owner’s investment with sustainable, sound horticultural practices.

Invasive Plant Programs – Gachina removes invasive plants and weeds from customer landscapes and replants native plant species as part of our goal to protect and restore the natural beauty of California’s landscape.



Environmental Practices

Spare the Air & Restricted Blower Use – In an effort to keep the Bay Area’s air quality clean, Gachina has been a participating member of the Spare the Air program since 1998. In association with participating clients, Gachina will refrain from using power equipment on designated Spare the Air days. In addition Gachina works within community and residential guidelines to assure blower compliance. All communities have the option of whether or not to use blowers on their properties. If requested we will expand sweeping and raking activities in lieu of blower use.

Grass Cycling – This environmentally friendly service saves time and money by leaving grass clippings on the lawn rather than catching them and hauling them off for recycling. The process reduces mowing time, hauling time and lowers fertilizer costs. It also allows customers to build healthy turf by returning nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil and releasing them slowly. This further reduces fertilizer runoff and preserves natural resources.

Green Waste Recycling & Purchasing of Recycled Compost – Rather than being dumped into a landfill, Gachina aggressively recycles all of its “green waste” by sending it to a major composting facility where the debris biodegrades into reusable rich compost for many agricultural industries. In addition, Gachina purchases this recycled product back from the composting facilities for use in planting beds.



Office Practices

Hybrid Vehicles – In 2007 Gachina Landscape Management introduced the first hybrid vehicle into our fleet of cars and trucks. We continue to add these fuel efficient autos to achieve better gas mileage and reduce emissions while commuting to customer sites.

Energy Use – We have recently completed our PG&E energy audit and are on our way to becoming a certified green business. We have joined Energy Star program of the EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy helping businesses and homeowners save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Gachina uses compact florescent light bulb replacements; duplex printers and automatic “sleep” mode on printers and photocopy machines.

Restricted Paper Use & Recycling – The Gachina offices have been reducing paper consumption by using recycled paper for printing and copying. Our personnel is diligent in converting internal distribution of reports, faxes, newsletters and bulletins from hard copy to electronic; and changing the default settings on printers to two-sided. Recycling bins are used throughout all Gachina offices.

