Spring 2013



TAGRO
products are
available for
pick-up or
delivery.

TAGRO Potting Soil

\$30 per cubic yard

\$15 per half cubic yard

\$5 minimum purchase (approximately four cubic feet)

TAGRO Mix

\$10 per cubic yard

Aged Black Bark

\$26 per cubic yard

Pickup and delivery

Come and get it. If you have a pickup truck or trailer, you can pick up larger amounts of TAGRO. Or (for an additional fee) we'll deliver TAGRO products to you. Call for a delivery estimate.

*Product and delivery prices are subject to change

(253) 502-2150 www.tagro.com

BLACK BARK

Check out the new product available through TAGRO, Aged Black Bark. Aged Black Bark is a low-nutrient ground cover similar to traditional beauty bark — except that it's black. The best uses for Aged Black Bark are as a ground cover and weed barrier or it can be incorporated into soil to increase the amount of organic matter.

If you are looking for a high-nutrient product to give your lawn or garden a boost, try TAGRO Mix or TAGRO Potting Soil.

TAGRO is available for pickup or delivery all year.

TAGRO (Central Treatment Plant), 2201 Portland Ave, Gate 6 Spring hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (253) 502-2150 www.tagro.com





GREENER CLEANER

Answer key to the winter issue's puzzle:

D	F	Τ	Н	U	В	C	٧	В	N	M	1	L	A	Z	X	
Α	5	D	F	G	G	Н	L	В	N	M	J	Н	G	F	S	
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Α	G	Α	R	В	Α	G	E	Q	F	Ε	D	G	Y	U	L	
S	R	C	G	Н	Υ	K	W	L	0	U	Υ	Н	N	S	D	
D	Ε	R	T	Υ	В	J	S	D	C	Н	K	1	0	Н	В	
W	A	Ε	R	F	C	G	P	Н	٧	C	K	L	U	Α	٧	
Q	S	Х	C	٧	F	L	Α	T) E	R	٧	T	M	В	K	
N	E	Х	C	٧	F	R	P	M	1	K	Н	Υ	В	L	U	
K	J	Н	G	В	G	Τ	Ε	U	1	M	K	1	M	E	C	
C	٧	В	G	F	٧	G	R	0	W	Т	N	G	L	0	1	
T	R	Υ	1	N	G	F	٧	N	J	1	0	J	U	K	M	
W	D	G	R	F	N	K	L	1	U	C	Ε	W	Y	U	1	
N	J	U	1	K	М	0	1	0	L	Z	X	Ε	Q	Τ	R	
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R	Т	Υ	Н	В	F	K	Ŧ	0	L	G	F	D	Ε	R	Υ	

AVAVAAVAAVAAVA

Grease spot remover

What you need:

 Cornmeal Vacuum

Directions:

- 1. Pour enough cornmeal on the fabric or upholstery to cover the stain.
- 2. Let the cornmeal sit for up to 30 minutes.
- 3. Vacuum cornmeal and repeat the process if necessary.

This recipe works best on newer stains on light colored fabric or upholstery.

www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners

























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March

10.50 d.111.	Taro Waste a World bill composting
1:30 p.m.	Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain
10:30 a.m.	Residential Lighting & Design
10:30 a.m.	Backyard Chickens: Getting Started
10:30 a.m.	Planning a Food Garden: Soil & Seeds
	1:30 p.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

10.30 a.m. Vard Waste & Worm Rin Composting

April

6	10:30 a.m.	Tree Basics: Right Tree for the Right Place
13	10:30 a.m.	Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
13	1:30 p.m.	Backyard Chickens: Getting Started
20	10:30 a.m.	Solar Power: How It Works & Incentives
21	1:30 p.m.	Early Gardens: Prep & Plant

10:30 a.m. Enhance Your Habitat with Native Plants

May

4	10:30 a.m.	Rain Gardens: DIY Planning & Planting
11	10:30 a.m.	Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
18	10·30 a.m.	Drip Irrigation: Residential DIY

1:30 p.m. Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain

Workshop location: City of Tacoma EnviroHouse (Tacoma Landfill), 3510 S. Mullen St.

Advance registration required:

www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse, email ehouse@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 573-2426. Schedule is subject to change.

Gardening

March 16, 10 a.m. - Noon: Starting Your Garden from Seed

April 20, 10 a.m. - Noon: Preparing Your Vegetable Garden Soil

May 18, 10 a.m. - Noon: Planting and Maintaining Your Vegetable Garden

Workshop location: TAGRO Office, located at 2201 Portland Ave., Gate 6, Tacoma.

To register: Leave a message at (253) 798-4133, or sign up online at www.piercecd.org/communitygardens. Schedule is subject to change.

Natural Yard Care and Rain Garden Workshop

(Music, fun and food for the whole family)

May 4, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m.

Workshop location: Wapato Lake Pavilion, 6500 S. Sheridan Ave.

Advance registration required:

www.hhhnworkshops.eventzilla.net More information: Christina Zinkgraf, czinkgraf@cityoftacoma.org, (253) 324-6210































FREE! FREE! F

what's HAZARDOUS in your GARAGES

'Tis the season to make a list and check it twice. Yep, that's right, spring fever will likely take you into your garage for chemicals to care for your car or yard.

Take inventory of the hazardous items in your garage (those labeled caution, warning, danger, etc.) by creating a checklist of chemicals. Here's an example to get you started.

		Conditio	n	Action					
	Expired	Expired Damaged Unmarked		Date	Share excess	Dispose			
Antifreeze									
Auto batteries									
Fertilizer									
Engine cleaner/degreaser									
Gasoline/diesel/kerosene									
Lubricants									
Motor oil									
Paints/stains/varnishes									
Pool chemicals									
Solvents/thinners									
Weed killer									
Windshield washer fluid									

Properly dispose of household chemicals at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the Tacoma Landfill (3510 S. Mullen St.). When possible, use non-toxic alternatives.

(253) 591-5418

www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste



Make a difference with a Make a Splash grant

Get up to \$4,000 from Surface Water Management for projects that help keep our local waterways pollution-free.

Make a Splash grants fund projects that address stormwater pollution prevention or protection and restoration of our local lakes, streams, rivers and Puget Sound. Projects that tie in with the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign (www. PugetSoundStartsHere.org) are encouraged.

Past projects have included videos, multilingual outreach efforts, classroom experiences, and monitoring and stewardship projects.

Applications and details are on the City's website. Deadline is May 20, 2013.

(253) 502-2126 www.cityoftacoma.org/ makeasplash



For the latest information on rates for solid waste, surface water and wastewater services, visit the City's website at www.cityoftacoma.org/esrates.

What's going green? Dewntewn Tacema

Downtown Tacoma is getting a facelift! At the beginning of the year, construction on the Pacific Avenue Streetscape began. Among the upgrades to the streets, sidewalks and lighting are innovative stormwater improvements. These improvements include 14 rain gardens and new landscaping with 129 trees, 817 shrubs and more than 3,000 new plants.

So what does that mean for surface water pollution? A lot! When it rains, water

runs through the streets of downtown picking up pollution and then goes into a storm drain where it flows directly into the Thea Foss Waterway untreated. With the new rain gardens and landscaping, a lot of the stormwater runoff will be captured, filtered and then will flow into the Thea Foss Waterway much cleaner.

www.cityoftacoma.org/pacave



Surface water pollution is a big problem, but here are a few things you can do to help:

- Pick up pet waste and place it in the garbage.
- Dispose of litter and cigarette butts in the garbage.
- Detect vehicle leaks and get them fixed in a timely manner.
- Practice natural yard care, reducing the number of chemicals on your lawn that can get washed down the storm drain.

were going every other week

Every-other-week garbage collection begins March 11 for about 5,700 households in a portion of North Tacoma.

When is it coming to your neighborhood?

Where you live in Tacoma will determine when your collection will change. Here's a general timeline — subject to change — for when and where Solid Waste Management plans to implement the switch to everyother-week garbage collection. You'll receive advance notice by mail and phone before your service changes.

Monday garbage customers: March/April

Tuesday garbage customers: June/July ₩ Wednesday garbage customers: August/September

Thursday garbage customers: October/November





Leak detection is pollution prevention

Vehicles are one of the biggest contributors to stormwater pollution that ends up in our local lakes, streams and Puget Sound. Motor oil, brake dust, tire wear, tailpipe emissions and car wash residue — it all adds up.

Help reduce water pollution:

- Regularly maintain your vehicle.
 Be on the lookout for leaks.
- If you spot drips coming from your vehicle, use cardboard to catch the drips until you can get them fixed. (Make sure to
- dispose of stained cardboard in the trash, not the recycling!)

 Carpool or take public transit when possible.





Food waste recycling

Has your yard/food waste container been hibernating? Spring is the perfect time to start recycling your food scraps when you can mix them with yard waste in your big, brown container. Here's what's accepted:

Yes

- Fruit and vegetables
- Breads, grains, pasta, cereal
- Leftovers/kitchen scraps
 (including coffee grounds/filters)
- Meat, poultry, seafood (including bones and shells)
- Dairy and eggs (including shells)

No

- Plastic, glass, metal
- Liquids, grease, oil
- Cardboard, pizza boxes
- Plastic or compostable bags
- Paper (OK to line container with newspaper)

www.TacomaRecycles.org



RESOURCE	GHT	DE SPRING 2013							
ILLOUUILL	MOTI	SPRING 2013 WWW WWW							
Solid Waste Management									
Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard/food waste) Information line	591-5543								
(recorded message)	565-5955	www.TacomaRecycles.org							
Call-2-Haul	573-2468	www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul							
EnviroHouse	573-2426	www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse							
Hazardous waste	591-5418	www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste							
Landfill scalehouse	593-7724								
Surface Water Management Wastewater Management									
General Surface Water and Wastewater questions	591-5588	www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater							
Billing questions	502-2100								
Sewer backups & Street flooding Street sweeping	591-5585	www.cityoftacoma.org/flood www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping							
Leaf disposal		www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves							
TAGRO	502-2150	www.tagro.com							
Environmental Services (Se	olid waste, s	urface water, wastewater)							
www.cityoftacoma.org/env	ironmentalse	ervices							
Email listserv		www.cityoftacoma.org/environews							
Twitter		www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk							

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available. It is the first thing you will be asked and allows us to quickly access your information. Your account number is located at the top of your utility bill.

www.twitter.com/CityOfTacoma

www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma



Garden markers

Make your own garden markers using flat rocks and some paint.

What you need:

- Rocks with a flat surface for decorating
- Acrylic paint

Directions:

Facebook

- If your rocks are too dark for the paint to show, apply a coat of white paint and let dry.
- 2. Decorate each rock with a picture of an item you wish to label in your garden and let dry.
- 3. Place your markers (rocks) in your garden where these items will be growing.

www.cityoftacoma.org/EnviroKids



in this issue

- New: Aged
 Rlack Bark
 - Black Barkpage 1
- ## Hazardous waste checklist page 3
- Every-other-week garbage collection page 4

We want to hear from you: EnviroTalk@cityoftacoma.org www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk (253) 591-5051



Recycled and recyclable Printed with soy-based ink



PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID TACOMA, WA PERMIT NO. 2

What's that WORD?

Complete the sentences below (answers found by reading this issue of EnviroTalk) and then find the word or phrase in the word search below. If you get stumped, the answers are at the bottom. A key to this word search will be featured in the next issue of EnviroTalk.

- 1. Vehicles are one of the biggest contributors to stormwater **pollution** that ends up in our local lakes, streams and Puget Sound.
- 2. Spring is the perfect time to start recycling your _____ scraps when you can mix them with yard waste in your big, brown container.
- 3. Every-other-week garbage _______ begins March 1l for about 5,700 households in a portion of North Tacoma.
- 4. Take inventory of the ______ items in your garage (those labeled caution, warning, danger, etc.) by creating a checklist of chemicals.
- 5. When it rains, water runs through the streets of downtown picking up pollution and then goes into a storm drain where it flows directly into the Thea Foss Waterway
- 6. Aged Black Bark is a low-nutrient _____ cover similar to traditional beauty bark except that it's black.
- 7. Don't freak, we're going every other _____.

F	J	Н	٧	В	N	M	K	K	0	L	0	C	Χ	S	W
L	K	J	N	٧	F	G	Υ	Н	U	J	1	K	C	Z	F
Н	Α	Z	A	R	D	0	U	S	L	R	G	Н	J	N	В
J	K	L	G	В	٧	F	G	٧	D	T	Ε	W	D	Н	P
L	0	1	J	В	N	C	٧	F	D	R	Ε	X	U	C	В
P	L	G	В	N	P	0	L	L	U	T	П	0	N	D	F
W	Ε	R	R	T	٧	L	G	Н	Н	K	L	P	T	0	В
В	J	0	Z	S	F	L	J	F	Н	Y	T	U	R	1	0
P	0	U	U	T	Υ	Ε	F	0	C	٧	G	Н	Ε	Z	S
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Q	W	D	F	G	T	N	U	Ε	Υ	٧	C	Н	J	D	S
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U	J	K	M	N	D	F	R	Ε	Υ	Q	W	Ε	Ε	K	(

Answeis: 1. POLLUTION, 2. FOOD, 3. COLLECTION, 4. HAZARDOUS, 5. UNTREATED, 6. GROUND, 7. WEEK

Pléase see pg. 2 for answers to last issue's puzzle.

