



Green TV

The Garden Wise Guys Take to the Airwaves

Have you caught the hot new local gardening show yet? It's the *Garden Wise Guys*, with Billy Goodnick and Owen Dell. If you haven't stumbled across their first three episodes, "Right Plant, Right Place," "How to Water Wisely," and "Journey to the Center of the Dirt," their newest offering, "A Sustainable Garden on a DEADline" premieres Tuesday, April 18, at 8 p.m. on City TV, Channel 18.

These Wise Guys don't claim to be professional actors, but they are professional landscape architects (wise) with great senses of humor (wise guys) and anyone who knows them will acknowledge that they are born entertainers. In the course of pursuing their day jobs — Dell is owner of County Landscape & Design and Goodnick works for the City of Santa Barbara Parks & Recreation Department — they help beautify our community with sustainable landscape solutions. They sprinkle

their half-hour shows with slapstick and silliness, but their message is serious enough.

In the latest installment, Goodnick and Dell demonstrate how to create a great-looking garden that won't break your pocketbook or back. Employing a campy, *film noir* style, they couch their advice in an inane plotline that includes dark alleyways, dangerous drinks and a *femme fatale*. While trying to recover their beloved pet (you'll just have to watch to see what manner of beast it is), the Wise Guys are forced to design a fantastic garden for a gangster. Along the way, they show you how to analyze your garden site, select plants, and place them for maximum attractiveness with minimum maintenance. The new garden they create features water-wise plants and sustainable landscaping techniques that even nasty Mr. X will find worthy.

For a full listing of show times, visit citytv18.com or call Christy Julin at 564-5311. Episodes also air on County GATV Channel 20, Monday and Wednesdays at 10 p.m. and again on Saturdays and Sundays at 9:30 p.m. (Visit gscares.com/GATV/programSchedule.asp). Don't forget to tune in every season as a new feature appears every three months.

Virginia Hayes, curator of Ganna Walska Lotusland, will answer your gardening questions. Address them to Gardens, The Independent, 122 W. Figueroa St., S.B., CA 93101. Send email to vahayes@lotusland.org.