



## PRESS RELEASE

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# **DENNIS' 7 DEES CELEBRATES EARTH DAY 2010 BY PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY**

**PORTLAND, OREGON (April 14, 2010)** – The 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of Earth Day is April 22 and for Dennis' 7 Dees Landscaping & Garden Centers that means working with students, Girl Scouts, community groups and even an urban demonstration farm to help promote various modes of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

On Earth Day, more than a dozen volunteers from Dennis' 7 Dees Landscaping will be at Zenger Farm in Southeast Portland upgrading and extending an irrigation system for the farm's orchard and berry fields, which the company initially installed a year ago. Zenger Farm is a non-profit farm which provides opportunities for youth, families and farmers to learn about sustainable agriculture, community gardening, and local economic development.

This is the second year the company has participated in a nationwide "Day of Service" on Earth Day; an event created by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) of which Dennis' 7 Dees is a member. The day gives PLANET members like Dennis' 7 Dees the opportunity to carry out "green" service projects to benefit their community.

"We chose to help (Zenger Farm) as our green project because we were already moving to more sustainable products and methods of landscaping, along with implementing them in our day to day business and facility operations," says Corey Verch, the company's design/build sales manager.

The day after Earth Day, the company will send a team of volunteers to the Mt. Scott Learning Center High School near Dennis' 7 Dees' Southeast Powell garden center to hold a planting day as part of the school's outdoor classroom curriculum.

The Dennis' 7 Dees volunteers will work with the students to create multi-functional landscapes of edible, medicinal and decorative plants and trees. Among these are apple and elderberry trees and 75 lavender plants - from the latter the students will extract lavender oil which they are planning to market. The partnership with Mt. Scott is now going into its second year, with the company providing ongoing support for the school's landscapes project.

At another school, the Metro Learning Center in Northwest Portland, Dennis' 7 Dees staff volunteers will again be assisting the elementary students there with their gardening efforts. The company will donate Northwest native and edible plants to be used in the school gardens and will help the youngsters create attractive signage and labels for them. They will also offer environmental science lessons in the gardens.

Staff members at Dennis' 7 Dees Cedar Hills Garden Center will also spread the Earth Day message, conducting tours for a Girl Scout troop of third graders and also pre-schoolers at their location. The Girl Scouts will have a planting activity as part of the tour and a take-home project, while the pre-schoolers will learn about beneficial garden insects.

The Cedar Hills garden center will also work with another Girl Scout troop to help them plan a garden and then hold an off-site "planting day with dads" at the end of April.

"We see these community partnerships as an increasingly important part of our company's efforts to promote and educate about environmental stewardship, not only around Earth Day, but throughout the year," says Mulysa Melco, Dennis' 7 Dees landscape designer.

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***ABOUT:** Dennis' 7 Dees has been a leading nursery, garden center and landscape contractor in the Portland area since 1956. They sell a wide variety of plants, shrubs and trees, gardening supplies, tools and other items for home gardens and landscapes and have an ongoing commitment to "Smarter Gardening" based on free, expert gardening advice from their experienced staff. The company also offers a complete range of residential and commercial*

*landscaping services, including installations, patios, decks and walls, water features, lighting systems and maintenance. Dennis' 7 Dees has four garden center locations, three in the Portland metro area and on the Oregon coast in Seaside. [www.Dennis7Dees.com](http://www.Dennis7Dees.com) For more information call 503-777-7777.*