2015 Texas Excellence in Landscaping Awards

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Ingredients: Grass seed, fertilizer, AquaSmart, water-efficient nozzles, smart controller, soil moisture sensors. May contain traces of water and sunshine.

*Water and sunshine may vary state to state. Please see your local branch for more details.
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2015 TEXAS EXCELLENCE IN LANDSCAPING AWARDS

The Texas Excellence in Landscaping Awards program recognizes excellence in installation, design, design/build, maintenance and special projects. This special edition of Green features the 2014-2015 TEIL award recipients who will be honored at the TNLA Awards Dinner in Dallas, Texas during the 2015 Nursery/Landscape Expo.

Entries were judged on the basis of difficulty, craftsmanship, and attention to detail, in addition to specific criteria listed in each category. Each of the entry categories was evaluated independently; the type, size, and cost of the project were not criteria for judging.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners – see you in August at the TNLA Awards Dinner!

Grand Platinum AWARD WINNER TO BE UNVEILED IN AUGUST AT THE TNLA AWARDS DINNER
While most municipal projects over the past several years have been shelved or severely reduced in scope due to budget cuts, this town hall renovation was built to meet the very high standards of the town’s leaders and residents to coincide with their 100th anniversary.

A magnificent oak tree became a cornerstone of the newly landscaped plaza. Terra cotta tile with blue ceramic tile inlays created the walkways, and custom iron railings were fabricated and installed. The landscape, hardscape, and the renovated building all work in harmony to reflect the Spanish Colonial style.

The completed Town Hall renovation was a real success for all involved. The general contractor, town council, and crew worked well together to complete the project on schedule—even with the challenges of a tight site, a long approval process on changes needing council approval, and difficult weather conditions.
Southern Botanical

The Vendome
Commercial Installation over $100,000

The renovation of the prestigious residential high-rise landscape was completed in the Turtle Creek area of Dallas. The client’s goal was to transform the overgrown and outdated grounds into an inviting and revitalized reflection of the upscale property.

Significant challenges involved working above the existing underground parking garage and extensively renovating the large drainage system for the entire site. During construction of the two acre project, the site had to also continue to operate as the shared outdoor spaces for 486 high-end homeowners.

44,875 plants ranging in size from 14” caliper trees down to 4” pots were installed, as well as 440 linear feet of retaining walls. The areas that were renovated include the front Porte Cochere, front retaining walls and monument sign, library courtyard, east and west meandering path gardens, and the pool and cabana area. The final result is a lush and relaxing space where the residents can unwind.
Gold Award

AJ’S LANDSCAPING & DESIGN, INC.

Rini’s Garden
Residential Installation $25,000 - $100,000

Rini’s garden is located in Houston’s residential community of River Oaks. As a well-known author and illustrator of children’s books, the client wanted an outdoor space that would inspire and be reflective of the magical essence of her writings. Most of her books are about fictional fairies frolicking amongst lush gardens full of flora and fauna - she wanted her garden to match her stories. A topiary garden, outdoor seating, and a water feature were a few of her desires.

AJ’s Landscape & Design was able to deliver by clearing previously unattended plants, installing flagstone walkways, two custom wrought iron arch to the existing gazebo and a stunning water fountain the owner found in France. They also created a butterfly topiary garden lined with boxwoods, added large cherry laurels as a green backdrop and planted an eclectic mix of textures and colors throughout. Although the yard had been neglected, the client’s creative vision helped AJ’s Landscape & Design create an oasis full of warmth and imagination!
2015 Texas excellence in landscaping
LAMBERT LANDSCAPE COMPANY

French Country Retreat
Residential Installation over $100,000

Working within the confines of an historic and architecturally-significant neighborhood set the tone for the design team’s challenge on this one-plus acre site. The well-traveled clients had the desire for a French Normandy-style home and garden that would not only fit their neighborhood’s character but also feel like it had always been there.

Terracing of the gently sloping grade was achieved by using grass steps and a weathered stacked stone retaining wall. The entry garden courtyard was created with a bosque of standard ‘Natchez’ crepe myrtles. Details such as the carved address stone, stacked limestone wall, antique brick, and stone garden ornaments along with plantings of lavender and clipped boxwood exude the style of the French Normandy region.

The finished project is one that responds to the clients’ desires, respects the site’s needs, and replies with an authentic and stunning setting true to the architectural style of this one-of-a-kind residence.
The ten acre grand estate is located in the park cities area of Dallas. The client’s goal was to utilize one acre to create dramatic outdoor views and settings to entertain guests. The plantings and water features transform from formal to natural as visitors move through the back garden.

The landscape installation consists of a sunken formal garden, and a 150’ long, 6’ wide winding, flowing stream surrounded by natural landscape. Finally, the stream feeds into a 30’x30’x10’ high natural waterfall fountain. Seasonal color and perennials were grouped by color to fill lush Parterre gardens lined with formal boxwood hedges. And custom limestone balusters were fabricated to exactly match the existing house.

The high-profile clients remained in the residence and a security/facilities manager was on site at all times through the construction process. Despite project delays due to freezing winter temperatures, the team finished within the client’s expectation of approximately one year.
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Silver Award

Valleycrest Landscape Development, Inc.

Nationwide Operation’s Center
Commercial Installation over $100,000

To meet LEED-Gold standards for the Nationwide campus, the landscape plan was designed and installed by ValleyCrest Landscape Development with sustainability in mind. The water management plan utilizes 100 percent reclaimed water and low-impact drip irrigation throughout the property except on turf areas. The drought tolerant landscape palette is solely perennial plant material (no annual plants) allowing for year-round color interest and reduced water needs.

Built atop limestone deposit, the crew took great care when digging and trenching to ensure proper drainage to protect existing Hill Country Live Oaks during construction. The end result is a new construction corporate campus that appears to have grown out of a lush natural habitat.
McLane Stadium at Baylor University

Commercial Installation over $100,000

Baylor University’s McLane Stadium is a new stadium and outdoor entertainment zone in Waco, Texas. ValleyCrest’s landscaping blends beautifully with the bordering Brazos River and the mature landscaping throughout the campus.

Heritage trees on campus were preserved and incorporated into the design of the walking paths, a double band of Live Oaks surrounds the stadium and 14 Calipers welcome visitors at the main entrance. Native limestone serves as a connecting element throughout the project. Large 2’x2x6’ limestone blocks were used to create a terraced outdoor amphitheater. Spectators enjoy a five acre tailgate zone, as well as end-zone seating and native green and yellow plants that highlight school spirit.
Silver Award

George W. Bush Presidential Center
Commercial Maintenance

The George W. Bush Presidential Center grounds consist of 17.6 acres located five miles north of downtown Dallas. The landscape recreates a native Texas prairie, including 8.9 acres of native lawn and 8.7 acres of prairie and savannah, wildflower meadows, wet prairie and bioswale gardens. The native lawn is mowed only four to six times per year and is maintained at eight to twelve inches. The beds include a mix of 1,990 native shrubs, grasses, wildflower, perennial, and tree species pruned seasonally to encourage plant diversity. The native, drought tolerant landscape sets a national benchmark for sustainability and the wise use of limited natural resources.
The Spencer Company

**Silver Award**

The San Luis Resort
*Commercial Maintenance*

This 30 acre seaside resort is located high above, yet just steps away from the beach, the maintenance crew has to contend with constant winds, blowing sand and salt air! At times, the sand blown from the beach drifts onto the lawn and in the plantings to form small dunes, which not only can be devastating to the plants that they cover, but equally frustrating for those who have to remove the sand and restore the plantings.

A balance of landscape elements, including numerous Palm trees, flowering annuals and a large water feature, create an oasis in the otherwise barren and windswept landscape that naturally occurs along the coast. Hostile growing conditions, Stage Two water restrictions, year-round activities, and the ever present expectation for the highest standards of excellence in the hospitality industry constantly keeps The Spencer Company’s staff challenged and on their toes!
Silver Award

**Jarosz Residence**
*Residential Installation under $25,000*

This project’s client had a small and empty backyard that was ready for a complete transformation. The client wanted a dramatic but tasteful landscape/hardscape that would allow them to have a liveable “outdoor room” to use year-round for entertaining and relaxing. Working with a blank slate, AJ’s created a design that incorporated shade, screening, seating, and a water feature. A grape arbor was installed and Eagleston Hollies planted to frame the entire yard as well as hide the neighbor’s large garage. Boxwoods, Agapanthus, Azaleas and lil gem magnolias add texture and pops of color the family will enjoy for years to come. Lined with gravel pathways, a soft Zoysia lawn is the perfect place for the client’s two small children and dog to play. A unique water feature adds a soothing background sound, and several potted bowls throughout the yard complete the elegant look. The final result of the new landscape is truly a transformation that gives the family an extra “room” to enjoy.
SOUTHERN BOTANICAL

Lakewood Residential Restoration
Residential Installation $25,000 - $100,000

The client’s desire for this renovation was to overcome several challenges of their sloping corner lot. The front garden lacked curb appeal and the back garden required usable spaces. Approximately 15 tons of river rock, 6 tons of moss boulders and 6 tons of Leuders chopped stone were used to create hardscape. Plant materials include synthetic turf, Sandankwa Viburnum, dissectum dwarf, Coral Bark and Bloodgood Japanese maples, oakleaf hydrangeas, and Kaleidoscope abelia. Additionally, 4” caliper red maple, 3” Ginkgo Biloba and over 1250 perennials were planted to create the lush garden spaces.

The restored garden spaces achieved the goals set forth by the client, creating a pleasing approach to the home and restoring the site to usable outdoor spaces.
Silver Award

River Hills
Residential Installation over $100,000

The River Hills project represents over two years’ worth of design and construction on the client’s vacation property. Southern Landscape designed a plan for a guest house and two acre hillside that maintained the natural beauty of the site while creating an oasis for the client to relax.

The final project is a series of walking paths emanating from a custom built art studio and guest casita, as well as over 1100 specimen plants. Paths accented with rough ledgestone staircases lead to over 20 individual, private oases, including a brick pagoda, a stargazing area with fire pit and custom pergola, multiple water features, and stone seat benches.

River Hills is a private oasis of natural beauty.
On this project, AJ’s Landscaping & Design created a new atmosphere in the client’s small back patio and driveway area. After a dying, large tree and all of the previous pavers and plant materials were removed, they transformed the space by installing a new water feature, three-foot flagstone joints with zoysia sod peeking through, a new outdoor kitchen, and all new patio furniture. Boxwoods run along the side of the pool for a tight hedge while camellia laces the stucco wall, and a small cathedral live oak was planted as an anchor point adjacent to a faux stone bench. The unique driveway now also acts as an overflow area during social gatherings, making this new courtyard a calm relaxing area that is both beautiful and functional!
Preston Hollow Estates

Residential Installation over $100,000

This property is three oversized lots – each with a different structure(s) on it – conjoined by a large stone privacy wall along a busy street. A large objective of the landscape was to provide more privacy from a busy street that the property faces, along with several large outdoor entertaining spaces that were able to house a large number of parking and party tents, but yet still be surrounded by lush landscaping. Lawns of Dallas was able to achieve this by installing a gorgeous Zoysia lawn under the shade of multiple native Pecan trees, a fountain, backyard gate entry and grass paver parking area used for event overflow parking. Mature Nellie R. Stevens Hollie, Knock Out Roses, and Boxwoods help completed the project.
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Clancy Residence
*Residential Installation over $100,000*

This project’s client was looking to overhaul the entire lawn, planting beds and hardscape to make a dramatic difference to the drive-up appeal as a part of this home remodel. A Zoysia lawn created a golf-like fairway along with a synthetic turf lawn. A large, mature and immediate privacy hedge was created with 100 gallon Patio Savannah Hollies. The front elevation was changed with the newly installed raised brick wall. Lastly, all green and white textures and blooms were planted in the beds.

The homeowners were ecstatic with the final look of the project as well, and not long after completion were married in their newly renovated back yard.
Highland Park Residence
Residential Maintenance

The client for this project wanted to be able to come home and enjoy their landscaping without having to worry if something was being watered properly, fertilized, or in need of replacement. This property requires a lot of attention to the details throughout. There is Boston Ivy along multiple sides of the home, requiring weekly pruning to keep it off of the eves and consistently level from front to back. Several large pockets of seasonal color are changed out three to four times annually, with weekly deadheading and pruning. The biggest challenge is the shade throughout the property from existing trees. To address these issues, the account manager visits the property at least once per week and often twice in one week ensuring pristinely manicured hedges, vines, and trees. The precise attention to detail is why this property stays beautiful year-round!
Magnuson & Castanon Resience  
*Residential Maintenance*

This project’s landscape is brought to life with several intimate outdoor living spaces enhanced by rich and flourishing gardens. The property requires a lot of attention to the formal pruning techniques needed for the hedges in the front yard, while the back gardens have a water feature and patio space which require weekly blowing and debris removal. There is also a lot of great natural shade for these outdoor patios from a large specimen aged Red Oak, but that same tree and shade affects the plantings with varying light conditions, and with ability to water the lawn and beds only at certain times. Lawns of Dallas makes sure hedges are being pruned properly either formally or by hand pruning, weeds are being pulled, and hard surfaces & patio furniture is being cleaned appropriately weekly. The clients can enjoy the luxurious outdoor spaces knowing it is meticulously cared for.
Borders Secret Garden
Special Projects

Hidden behind a hostile fortress of large moss boulders, diseased roses and spiky palms lay a sharp, very steep slope down to the rear fence of the client’s property. The almost 45 degree angle made it nearly impossible to traverse and caused rushing torrents of water and erosion with every rain. Whimsical Gardens did a complete reconfiguring of the elevations and leveled the high garden. Inside the secret garden, undulating curves of stone mirror the curves of the pool above. Draping Silver Dust ivy, skullcap, artemisia, thrift and silver dicondra create a pastel foundation against which the bright wall of oleander and summer flowers contrast, creating a perfect private getaway.
Bronze Awards

CLEANSCAPES, LP
Amber Oakes
Commercial Maintenance

RAVENSCOURT & DESIGN, LLC
VM Montrose
Residential Installation $25,000 - $100,000

MATT W. STEVENS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, LLC
Triesch Residence
Residential Installation over $100,000

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH,
URBAN WATER
Watersense Labeled Home
Special Projects
Honorable Mentions

VALLEYCREST LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Kimbell Art Museum

CLEANSCAPES, LP
Boot Ranch

CLEANSCAPES, LP
Research - Bld 1 & 2

CLEANSCAPES, LP
Research - Bld 3 & 4

MATT W. STEVENS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, LLC
Howell Residence

Judging Criteria

INSTALLATION CATEGORIES
All entries must include a PDF file of the design plan. If a design plan is not submitted, the entry may be disqualified.
1. Degree of difficulty
2. Quality of plant material (i.e. seeded or sodded lawns, shrubs, trees, plants, construction)
3. Attention to detail
4. Overall finished appearance (i.e. site grading)
5. Special features (i.e. ponds, paving, fountains)

Additional Criteria for Design Responsibility:
1. Overall design
2. Choice and location of plant materials
3. Harmony of design with surroundings
4. Evidence of workability
5. Environmental appropriateness

MAINTENANCE CATEGORIES
Entries in the maintenance category will be judged on preservation of design integrity, neatness, seasonal color, and healthy appearance. Projects must have been under contract by the entrant for at least two years prior to the date of entry, or else have been installed by the entrant.
1. Integrity of lawns (i.e. clear, careful mowing pattern, lush look without rutting)
2. Condition of trees and shrubs
3. Condition of planting beds (i.e. weed free, edge detail, condition of plant material, bed detailing)
4. Health & vitality of overall project
5. Attention to detail
6. Degree of difficulty

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Special Projects could be commercial or residential in nature. Examples include seasonal color, tree protection - construction phase, tree maintenance - continual care, water recycling, erosion control, green roof, and volunteer activities. Descriptions should focus on unique aspects and special challenges of the project.
1. Overall appearance
2. Degree of difficulty
3. Attention to detail
4. Quality of plant material
5. Quality of installation
6. Unusual or unique material used
7. Appropriateness to function
Nominate a **TNLA Young Leader Today**

Nominations are **Due May 15th**

[Website Link]

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The **TNLA Young Leader Award**, established by the Board of Directors in 1996, is presented annually to a deserving young leader age 41 and under who has displayed outstanding achievement and service to the Green Industry in Texas. TNLA and other community service by the nominee will be given special consideration by the selection committee.

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**Summit Award**

The **TNLA Summit Award** recognizes a member firm that has made significant, exceptional contributions to the Texas Nursery & Landscape Association and its member firms. The Summit Award is the highest honor bestowed by TNLA on a member firm. The firm successful in achieving the Summit Award exemplifies the Association’s ideals: innovation, service, and highly ethical behavior in the way it conducts its affairs.

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Nominations are **Due May 15th**

[Website Link]
TIPS for Winning TEIL Entries

The Texas Excellence in Landscaping Awards judging panel is composed of Texas judges who are experts in regional conditions and landscaping feats meriting distinction, thus elevating the criteria for winning submissions to a standard higher than many other awards programs. Judging is done in the blind and entries are judged on their own merits. Texas Nursery & Landscape Association has compiled tips and comments from judges over the years to provide easy, do-able actions for this elite awards program.

The quality and variety of your photos are central to the evaluation process. Scrutinize the composition of each photo and make sure it tells the story of your project. Your photo descriptions are read aloud to the judges as they examine the photos, so use descriptions to direct attention to the extraordinary features of your project. Take pictures specifically for the judges, don’t just use photos you already happened to have. Make sure the photos show what you want to describe; take a picture to define your description, not the other way around.

Hire a professional photographer or use a high quality camera that gives high resolution images. If you only capture 20 photos to submit 15, there isn’t much room to weed out the weakest ones. If you capture 300 images, there are more options. We suggest taking about 20 shots for each photo you plan to enter.

Providing an overall shot gives the judges a sense of context; the subsequent detailed shots will make more sense if judges have a sense of the space. For installation entries, “before” shots are just as important as “after” shots. Take photos at each phase in the process — before, during, and after. Take photos from the same angles, particularly for wide shots, to show a sense of the transformation that has occurred. For a design entry, take photos when flowers are in bloom, and/or in different seasons to show variety in color. For a maintenance entry, take photographs 2-3 days after mowing, when it still looks pristine but not as “scorched” as immediately afterward.

Time of day matters; photos look different at different times. They also look different if you take them on sunny versus cloudy days. Typically, the best times are early morning or just before sunset on overcast days, but use your judgment and pick the time that makes your project look the best.

Remember that you are telling the story of your project through 15 photographs and photo descriptions. Each image is an opportunity to show how your project meets the judging criteria, and each image description is a chance to explain to the judges what you’ve accomplished.

THE GRAND PLATINUM AWARD is presented only when the judges feel there is one project so outstanding that it merits special recognition. Grand Platinum projects may be extremely demanding, unique, challenging, or extremely well executed. The Grand Platinum award can be given in any entry category and is selected from the Gold award winners.

AWARD RECIPIENTS to be honored at TNLA Awards Dinner in August during the 2015 Nursery/Landscape EXPO in Dallas.

PURCHASE a full table for yourself, colleagues, and friends or offer seats to TNLA to be filled by local students, scholarship recipients and/or those interested in the Green Industry. Table sponsors will receive a reserved table for 10 with their company name displayed.
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The Quarterly Quiz - a CEU Opportunity

Each quarter, TNLA publishes an article and a quiz. Those holding TCNP, TCLP, TCLA, or TMCNP certifications can complete the quiz and return it to TNLA to earn 1 CEU credit. The quiz for this quarter can be found on page 51. Fill in the quiz and return to TNLA according to the instructions on that page.

Quarantine: What is it? Why and when are they used? Who gets to use it and how is it supposed to work?

By Dr. Kevin Ong

This past July, Harris County was placed under quarantined for Citrus Greening. This was an action that impacted many retailers and landscapers. Many of you know that Montgomery and Fort Bend counties were also quarantined later. Citrus greening is considered on of the most devastating disease to citrus production. This disease was first found in Florida in 2005. In 2012, a study reported that this disease had cost Florida an estimated $4.5 billion. Citrus Greening was confirm in Texas in 2012. It has largest been localized in the Rio Grande Valley until this July.

The concept of a quarantine dates back to the Middle Ages when the bubonic plague (black death) was spreading across the known world. It was said that the word “quarantine” comes from the Italian word for forty (40) – quaranta, which were the number of days that travelers must be isolated before entering the seaport of Ragusa (Venetian Republic) in the 1377. In short, quarantine is a method to isolate a subject to determine it is carrying a disease-causing agent.

The earliest plant quarantines is believed to be enacted in France in 1660 to control the spread of a wheat disease. At that time, the wheat growers did not know nor understand that a fungal pathogen was the cause of this plant disease but they noticed that barberry plants in the vicinity of the wheat made the disease worse. So a law was enacted to allow for the removal and destruction of barberry plants.

Quarantine is a legal tool used to prevent the spread of potentially devastating pathogens. In 1912, the US Congress passed the Plant Quarantine Act to grant the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to restrict and control importation of plant pest. And in 1919, a broad quarantine was enacted to deal with importation of nursery stock via compliance agreements (* - the Plant Quarantine Act is superceded by the Plant Protection Act of 2000). At the state level, the state’s Department of Agriculture has the authority to put in place quarantine for plant pest issues that is of concern to the state.

For more information about the Citrus Greening and quarantine story in Texas, check out:

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEBSITE:
http://www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/PlantQuality/PestAndDiseaseAlerts/CitrusGreening.aspx

INFORMATIONAL/AWARENESS FLYER – GULF COAST QUARANTINE:
bit.ly/GCquarantine Flyer

(continued on page 40)
There are some fundamental premises to plant quarantines:

1. Quarantine measures should be based on sound biology.
2. Quarantine should not be used to hinder trade.
3. Quarantine must derive from adequate law and authority.
4. Quarantines should be modified as conditions change and/or new facts becomes available.

5. The objective of preventing introduction and spread is reasonably achievable.
6. Both professional workers and the general public must cooperate for effectiveness.
7. Quarantine is only on of many facets to an effective and successful pest management program.

Texas has 2 Citrus Greening quarantine areas: the Valley (Rio Grande) area and now, the Gulf Coast quarantine area (Harris, Fort Bend & Montgomery). These quarantines were put in place initially by Texas Department of Agriculture to limit the spread of the disease. As in many plant disease cases, how the pathogen lives, moves and cause disease is important to developing practices that will stop it. Citrus Greening is caused by a bacterium that is transmitted by an insect, the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). But if the ACP is present but there is no pathogen – then there is no risk for disease occurring. With this rudimentary knowledge, one can surmise that on of the best ways to prevent spread of disease is to EXCLUDE the causal agent. So the instructions to prohibit movement of citrus plants out of the quarantine zone is aim to limit spread of the disease.

However, if the citrus greening bacterium is in the area, then ACP would (theoretically) acquire the bacterium and transmit them, thus capable infecting new plants. In this situation, methods that focus on suppressing the ACP is important to reduce risk of spread. [For more information about Citrus Greening, check out the TNLA Green September 2012 issue]. Although we can manage the ACP with insecticides, total eradication of these insects is not practical nor feasible.

The most important factor in successfully preventing spread is knowledge. Most people will want to do what is beneficial to society. Unfortunately, not everyone fully understands the impact of citrus greening or any given quarantinable plant disease. If we can learn and help other to learn of the impacts of this disease, perhaps a quarantine can be effective and help to limit further spread.
Economic Contributions of the Green Industry to the Texas Economy

By Marco A. Palma and Charles R. Hall

Acknowledgements
This report was made possible by a grant from the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA).

The data was obtained from the Texas Comptrollers of Public Accounts (TCPA), Baseline data from the Green Industry Research Consortium National Nursery Survey. Others who contributed with this report include Carmen Escalante (TCPA), Dan Hanselka, Dean McCorkle, (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service) and Alan Hodges (University of Florida).

This report complies with the terms of the TNLA contract. The authors welcome comments or information about the usefulness and implications of these findings.


Total green industry sales are estimated at an all-time high of $18.6 billion. The Production and manufacturing sector sales increased by almost 16% to a total of $2.14 billion in 2013, up from $1.80 billion in 2012. The landscaping sector also experienced a large growth in sales in 2013 with over 10%. Total landscaping sales were $4.5 billion. Retail sales also increased almost 9% to a total of $11.9 billion in 2013. The net margins attributed to the retail sector accounted for $3.6 billion. This study measures green industry sales in Texas by sector and then estimates economic contributions to the Texas Economy in terms of output, employment and value added.
Background Trends

There are so many factors contributing to the overall health of an industry that it’s shortsighted to focus solely on one specific element. For the green industry, marketplace trends encompass consumer spending and confidence in general, as well as how and where plants are purchased. At present, independent garden centers (IGCs) are holding their own in most markets and even increasing sales for the better stores, if adequate attention to merchandising, customer service and consumer trends is given. However, many firms that are using the “grow it and they will come” approach are struggling, and many IGCs are looking to complement their business with other non-plant lines.

Supply chain trends have a significant influence on the vitality of the industry, and vice versa. We continue to see a number of structural changes occurring in the green industry. The shakeout that started with the Great Recession has slowed, and all green industry sectors in Texas increased in sales in 2013.

Garden center trends are dependent upon a number of influences, including seasonality, climate, weather, region, competition from mass merchandisers and home centers, and consumer spending in general. The demand in the U.S. for lawn and garden plants and supplies is regional and highly dependent on climate and growing conditions. The good news is that retail sales for building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers, a potential corollary measure of garden supply demand, increased 3.7 percent in the first two months of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012.

Personal consumption expenditures of flowers, seeds and potted plants, a major driver for garden centers, are forecast to grow at an annual compounded rate of 5 percent between 2013 and 2017, according to data published by First Research, a provider of industry intelligence.

Consumer desire to spend time at home and extend living space outdoors should drive sales for outdoor patio products. Demand for decorative outdoor products, such as lighting, pavers and fountains, will achieve double-digit growth each year through 2015, according to the Freedonia Group. As the housing industry rebounds and the economy improves, consumers will unleash pent-up demand for landscaping renovations and updates that may have been put off during the recession.

Landscape service trends appear to be improving; in fact, according to First Research, the output of the U.S. landscaping industry is forecast to grow about 5 percent in 2013 compared to 2012. The outlook also calls for industry output to increase at a compounded annual rate of 4 percent through 2016, indicating steady growth in the longer term. The value of nonresidential construction spending, a driver for landscaping services demand, rose 13 percent year-to-date in January 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. The value of residential construction spending, which impacts demand for landscaping services, rose 22 percent year-to-date in January 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. Which brings us to a significant driving force: the housing market.

Methodology

In order to estimate economic contributions of the Green Industry to the Texas economy sales by each green industry sector need to be measured. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) was used to gather data on total green industry sales, including all sectors related to the green industry. The data used in this report were provided by the State Comptrollers Office, baseline data from the Green Industry Research Consortium National Nursery Survey, and includes industry sales through the end of fiscal year 2013. Every business in the state and the country is now classified by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which replaced the old Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. NAICS was developed jointly by the United States, Canada...
and Mexico to provide new comparability in statistics about business activity across North America. Green industry firms fall within one of the NAICS codes:

**Green Industry Sales in Texas**

When reporting sales to the State Comptroller’s office, each firm must report all sales, including those sales in which sale taxes are collected and those that are not collected (wholesale). This reporting system has an area of potential slippage. For example, since wholesale growers do not collect any sales tax (for the state), some small and medium size growers are unaware of their reporting responsibilities. Not all of these firms realize that their services are subject to sale taxes. Therefore, unintended non-compliance has been a source of under reporting, which would underestimate green industry sales in Texas. Because of this potential slippage problem, additional data were used to supplement this report’s methodology. Table 2 shows Total Green Industry Gross Sales in 2013, and Table 3 shows sales from 2007-2013 for each green industry sector. Table 3 shows sales for the retail industry including gross sales, and also net sales. Net sales represent the margin sales that correspond to the retail sector only.

Total industry sales, including grower, landscaping and retailing sales increased 10% in 2013 for a total of $18.6 billion in gross sales. The grower sector experienced an increase of 15.8% to a total of $2.1 billion. The landscaping sector increased sales by 10.4% to a total of $4.5 billion. Gross retail sales increased 8.9% to a total of $11.9 billion in 2013. Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 (continued on page 44)

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**TABLE 2. Total Green Industry Gross Sales in 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector (NAICS code)</th>
<th>Sales</th>
<th>Establishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production/Manufacturing 2,139,713,096</td>
<td>3,136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery &amp; Greenhouse (1114) ^ 1,322,133,822</td>
<td>2,759</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn &amp; Garden Equipment Manufacturing (333112) ^ 798,185,682</td>
<td>333</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefabricated metal buildings (332311) (Greenhouses)^* 19,393,593</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticultural Services 4,536,539,311</td>
<td>59,039</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping Services (561730) 4,298,566,22156,542</td>
<td>56,542</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Architectural Services (541320) 237,973,090</td>
<td>2,497</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; retail Trade Horticulture Products (Gross) 11,940,263,765</td>
<td>77,093</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower, Nursery Stock and Florist Supplies Wholesalers (424930) 696,560,332</td>
<td>1,738</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn &amp; Garden Equipment &amp; Supplies Stores (4442) 5,466,993,461</td>
<td>9,103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florists (4531) 1,197,362,688</td>
<td>13,668</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Material &amp; Supplies Dealers (4441)* 1,680,188,154</td>
<td>7,341</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Beverage Stores (445)* 418,922,263</td>
<td>10,704</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Merchandise Stores (452)* 1,685,085,083</td>
<td>33,530</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm &amp; Garden Equipment Wholesalers (423820)* 795,151,784</td>
<td>1,009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total All Sectors 18,616,516,173</td>
<td>139,268</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^ Estimated from baseline data from National Nursery Survey, and Texas Comptroller’s Office Data.

* NAICS represents a portion of Total Green Industry Sales.

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**TABLE 3. Total Green Industry Sales 2007-2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grower</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Retail (Gross)</th>
<th>Retail (Net)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$2,139,713,096</td>
<td>$4,536,539,311</td>
<td>$11,940,263,765</td>
<td>$3,615,832,573</td>
<td>$10,292,084,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$1,801,937,654</td>
<td>$4,060,913,366</td>
<td>$10,880,880,465</td>
<td>$3,295,022,856</td>
<td>$9,157,873,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$1,918,432,053</td>
<td>$3,538,719,690</td>
<td>$10,374,997,040</td>
<td>$3,141,827,767</td>
<td>$8,598,979,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$1,737,061,928</td>
<td>$3,390,016,982</td>
<td>$9,351,749,314</td>
<td>$2,831,960,872</td>
<td>$7,759,039,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$1,336,866,584</td>
<td>$3,414,177,793</td>
<td>$9,039,697,678</td>
<td>$2,737,463,255</td>
<td>$7,488,507,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$1,575,251,701</td>
<td>$3,903,651,168</td>
<td>$8,599,018,918</td>
<td>$2,604,013,890</td>
<td>$8,082,916,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$1,498,509,647</td>
<td>$3,567,729,013</td>
<td>$8,431,798,582</td>
<td>$2,553,375,081</td>
<td>$7,619,613,741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**TABLE 4. Total Green Industry Sales by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSA</th>
<th>Grower</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Retail (Gross)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>60,359,927</td>
<td>483,479,915</td>
<td>795,684,414</td>
<td>1,339,524,256</td>
<td>7.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>166,374,481</td>
<td>947,198,981</td>
<td>1,568,270,425</td>
<td>2,681,843,887</td>
<td>14.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft Worth</td>
<td>111,628,317</td>
<td>300,650,977</td>
<td>926,707,669</td>
<td>1,338,986,963</td>
<td>7.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>195,813,909</td>
<td>1,667,981,905</td>
<td>1,954,334,221</td>
<td>3,818,130,036</td>
<td>20.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>94,633,078</td>
<td>287,106,396</td>
<td>853,194,753</td>
<td>1,234,934,227</td>
<td>6.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,510,903,383</td>
<td>850,121,137</td>
<td>5,842,072,283</td>
<td>8,203,096,804</td>
<td>44.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,139,713,096</td>
<td>4,536,539,311</td>
<td>11,940,263,765</td>
<td>18,616,516,173</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued on page 44)
(continued from page 43)
represent industry sales for growers, landscaping, retailing (gross) and total gross industry sales respectively.

Table 4 presents green industry sales by sector and by major Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). There are 27 MSAs in Texas. The major MSAs are, Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, El Paso, and San Antonio. The economic scope reports sales in five of the major MSAs; together, the five major MSAs included in this report represent more than half of the total industry sales as shown in Figure 5. Houston and Dallas hold the largest share of green industry sales in 2012 with 20.51 and 14.41 percent respectively. Figure 6 is a graphical representation of grower, landscaping and retailing sales by MSA in Texas.

**Economic Contributions of the Green Industry to the Texas Economy**

The net sales data from the previous section was used to estimate total economic contributions of the Green Industry to the Texas Economy. To evaluate the economic impact contributions of the green industry to the Texas economy, economic models were developed using the Implan software system and associated Texas datasets (MIG, 2010). The Implan system includes more than 500 industries. Input-Output models represent the structure of a regional economy in terms of transactions, employees, households, and government institutions (Miller & Blair, 1985).

The economic multipliers derived from the Implan model were used to estimate the total economic activity generated in the state by sales (output) to final demand or exports. This includes the effects
of intermediate purchases by green industry firms from other economic sectors (indirect effects) and the effects of green industry employee household consumer spending (induced effects), in addition to direct sales by industry firms. The wholesale and retail sectors use products from the production/manufacturing and horticultural services sectors; therefore, when calculating the impacts for the wholesale and retail trade horticulture products, output (retail sales) are reduced to reflect only the gross margin on sales to those sectors, otherwise we would be double counting the economic impact stemming from those products.

Total economic contributions of the Green Industry in Texas were estimated at $20.3 billion in output; 216,599 jobs, and $11.7 billion in value added as shown in Table 5. For the production and manufacturing sectors, including nursery and greenhouse, lawn and garden equipment manufacturing, and metal building manufacturers, total output impacts were $4.1 billion; employment impacts were 28,019 jobs; and value added impacts were $2.2 billion. For the horticultural services sectors, including landscaping services and landscape architecture services, total output impacts were $9.3 billion; employment impacts were 111,725 jobs; and value added impacts were $4.9 billion. For the wholesale and retail trade sectors, total output impacts were $6.9 billion; employment impacts were 76,855 jobs; and value added impacts were $4.6 billion. The largest economic impact contributions for individual sectors were landscaping services, lawn and garden stores and nursery and greenhouse.

Economic impact results are also reported by major metropolitan

(continued on page 46)
statistical area (MSA) as summarized in Table 6. The MSAs with the greatest economic impact contributions to the State’s economy are Houston and Dallas.

**Measures of Economic Activity**

Sales or output is the dollar volume of a good or service produced or sold. Final Demand is sales to final consumers, including households, governments, and exports. Intermediate sales are sales to other industrial sectors. Income is the money earned within the region from production and sales. Total income includes personal income (wage and salary income, including income of sole proprietor’s profits and rents). Jobs or employment is a measure of the number of jobs required to produce a given volume of sales/production, expressed as full time equivalents, or as the total number including part time and seasonal positions. Value Added is the sum of total income and indirect business taxes.

Marco A. Palma and Charles R. Hall
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M University System, 2124 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2124, mapalma@tamu.edu

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The generally accepted origin of all maples is central China, primarily in Hubei, Sichuan, and Yunnan provinces. Over 100 million years ago, the family Aceraceae is thought to have radiated, moving westward, southward, and to the northeast, the latter taking maples into eastern Siberia and ultimately into North America. Most abundant during the Miocene from 25 to 5 million years before present, the range of maples was greatly reduced into the present day temperate regions with the ice age which began about five million years ago. While there are a few tropical maples, most of the 150 species today can be found in temperate regions. Rarely abundant, the species is often sympatric – that is, several maple species often reside in the same habitat without crossing. That paints the picture that leads our conversation to one maple species, a group we call the Japanese maples.

Japanese maples describes the cultivars of Acer palmatum and Acer japonicum (Fullmoon maple). Although there are two dozen additional species in Japan (more if you count introduced species), these two species have received the most interest and use. In both, but especially in A. palmatum, there’s a tendency to sport or produce unique seedlings - thus all the varieties. I hesitate to guess at the number of varieties but the number is in the thousands. Like so much in horticulture, the temptation to name a “new” plant, distribute it, promote it and market it is just too much. Maple enthusiasts can resist anything but temptation.

The definitive text for Japanese maples is by J.D. Vertrees, a Timber Press publication, now in the fourth edition (2009). With Vertrees passing in 2003,
SFA Gardens is home to over 400 hundred. If you think that’s too many, you’re wrong. We like them all. We favor ‘Bloodgood’, ‘Chitoseyama’, Fireglow’, ‘Hefner’s Red’, and ‘Emperor I’ for red foliage color; ‘Orange Dream’ and ‘Tsuma gaki’ for unique foliage color in the spring.

Varieties are typically divided into eight groups: palmate, dissectum, deeply divided, linearilobum, dwarf, semi-dwarf, variegated, and unusuals. This is an arbitrary delineation. From small trees, to shrubs, to small dwarfs, there’s a variety for anyone’s taste. The big bold palmate types hold up better in our summer heat, while the highly dissected types tend to leaf burn in summer. There are variegated varieties. In Japanese, markings on the leaf are called “fu” with over twenty kinds of variegation described. There’s some tendency to revert, easily controlled with a snip or two.

Varieties: I’m timid when it comes to recommending varieties. After all, SFA Gardens is home to over 400 hundred. If you think that’s too many, you’re wrong. We like them all. We favor ‘Bloodgood’, ‘Chitoseyama’, Fireglow’, ‘Hefner’s Red’, and ‘Emperor I’ for red foliage color; ‘Orange Dream’ and ‘Tsuma gaki’ for unique foliage color in the spring; ‘Seiryu’ for being the only cutleaf that develops into

(continued from page 47)

the more recent versions have been coauthored and amplified by Peter Gregory, who is the retired manager of the world-famous Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire, England. Peter Gregory and Hugh Angus (who recently retired as Head of Collections at Westonbirt) visited SFA Gardens in November 2010. This was a rare opportunity for our garden to capitalize on maple experts who have enjoyed a career with plenty of attention to this genus, the cultivars, and the nuances of growing a special woody ornamental. When it comes to nomenclature, no one is better than Peter Gregory.

Dividends are based on performance and are not guaranteed.

Contact your agent or Anne Sheahen at (972) 512-7728 or email info@hiallce.com.

The Texas Green Industry Safety Group combines your business with other horticultural businesses to provide workers’ comp premium discounts and job-specific safety resources. As a member of the TGI Safety Group, eligible businesses may also qualify for both group and individual dividends and receive a discount for choosing the health care network option.


The Texas Green Industry Safety Group combines your business with other horticultural businesses to provide workers’ comp premium discounts and job-specific safety resources. As a member of the TGI Safety Group, eligible businesses may also qualify for both group and individual dividends and receive a discount for choosing the health care network option.
a strong small tree; ‘Tsukasa Silhouette’ because it’s uniquely fastigiate; ‘Ryusen’ for being a fast growing weeping form; and, finally, any of the ‘hime’ varieties, whether ‘Yurehime’, ‘Otohime’, ‘Shishiohime’, or ‘Yatsubusa tamahime’, for being simply the coolest toadstools ever. For Full Moon maples, ‘Vitifolium’ fall color has been striking. Ask me next week and I can have another list.

**CULTURE:** When it comes to locating a Japanese maple in the landscape think sunlight first. In our region, full morning sun is fine. Avoid the blast of a full western sun. Varieties that feature variegated foliage or highly dissected leaves need additional protection. After locating the tree, think drainage. Japanese maples like well drained humus-rich soils and planting on a slight berm or knoll is best. At SFA Gardens we rarely dig a hole more than half the container root ball depth, choosing instead to plant high and then mound up around the plant, following that with heavy mulch except near the trunk itself. Japanese maples are tolerant of sands to clays, preferring slightly acidic soils. Develop an irrigation plan for the critical establishment years. At SFA Gardens, we utilize drip or sprinkler irrigation. Either works well. Once established, Japanese maples are amazingly drought tolerant in our Pineywoods region. When it comes to pruning, I usually say why? Sure, cut away any shoots from below the graft and, yes, you can remove a damaged limb or low hanger if you wish - but put away the saw. Whatever you do, don’t try to hack your way to a meatball or cube - the maple police may come calling. This tree’s natural form is why it’s the aristocrat of small trees for southern landscapes.
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Certified Professional Quarterly Quiz

Fill in the correct answer, or select from list of possible answers, for each question. A completed exam with a score of 75% or higher will qualify for 1 CEU towards TNLA certification. Quizzes scoring less than 75% will be returned and can be resubmitted. Correct answers can be sent upon request.

We encourage you to return your completed quiz by Feb 15th.

1. What is the purpose of a quarantine?

2. Who has the authority to place a quarantine in the state of Texas?

3. How many counties are included in the Gulf Coast Quarantine area?

4. Does ACP cause Citrus Greening?

5. What year did Florida first detect the disease?

6. The work “quarantine” was derived from what nationality?

7. Which is NOT one of the 7 Fundamental Premises to plant quarantines?
   a. Quarantine measures should be based on sound biology.
   b. Quarantine should not be used to hinder trade.
   c. Quarantine must derive from adequate law and authority.
   d. Only professional workers must cooperate for effectiveness.*

8. Instructions to prohibit movement of citrus plants out of the quarantine zone is aim to _________________________________ spread of the disease.

9. Although we can manage the ACP with insecticides, _________________________________ of these insects is not practical nor feasible.

10. The most important factor in successfully preventing spread is _________________________________.

Please return the completed quiz to:

Texas Nursery & Landscape Association  |  7730 South IH-35  |  Austin, TX 78745  |  Fax: 512.280.3012

Please retain a copy for your records.

NAME: ___________________________________________ Certification Type: ☐ TCNP  ☐ TMCNP  ☐ TCLP  ☐ TCLA

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San Antonio, TX 78248

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9462 Katy Freeway Bld 5
Houston, TX 77055
BALB, Inc.
www.holospheres.com

**REGION 4**
*Landscape*
MP Landscape And Outdoor Management, Inc.
Matt Freibey
4 Westchester Ct
Heath, TX 75032

**REGION 5**
*Associate Landscape*
Melia McFarland
Wild
12533 Foxglove Trail
Keller, TX 76244

**REGION 8**
*Landscape*
Blue Sky Landscaping
Buddy Miller
4404 Bellevue Ave
Austin, TX 78756

**TCLA**
Rick McFarland, TCLA
Oasis Landscape Architects & Contractors, Houston, TX

**TCNP**
Daryl Seth, TCNP
Amarillo Lawnmaster LLC, Amarillo, TX
Shane L. Montgomery, TCNP
Calloway’s Nursery Store 121, McKinney, TX
Donna Wade, TCNP
Roots And Stems LLC, Albany, TX

![Newly Certified Individuals](image)

Learn more about the benefits of certification at [www.tnlaonline.org](http://www.tnlaonline.org).
Calendar of Events

JANUARY
13 The 84th Legislative Session convenes, Austin
15 2015 Professional Grounds Keeper Agenda, Belton, TX
15-18 TNLA Winter Showcase Trade Show, Dallas
14-15 TNLA Winter Showcase Career Days, Dallas
15 TNLA Winter Showcase Grower Tour, Dallas
16 TNLA Winter Showcase Business Management Workshop, Dallas
21 Amarillo 2015 Master Marketer Program
21-23 Earth-Kind Landscape Short Course, College Station, TX

FEBRUARY
3-5 NextLevel, Fort Lauderdale, FL
20 Emerald Ash Borer Workshop, Houston
24 Irrigation Troubleshooting & Performance Testing, Austin
25 Drip Irrigation Workshop, Austin

For meeting times and additional information, please visit www.tnlaonline.org

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