



**TNLA**  
TEXAS NURSERY &  
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

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TNLA represents over 1,300 member companies that includes the largest businesses in the Texas Green Industry. As an industry we represent over \$22 billion dollars in annual sales in the State of Texas. These sales deliver a \$27 billion-dollar economic contribution to our state's economy.

Collectively, our Texas green industry includes over 130,000 business establishments representing over 260,000 jobs in our state. Despite COVID, many in the nursery and landscape industry had a strong 2020 representing continued growth for our industry.

Unfortunately, Winter Storm Uri threatens to overturn the years of growth and progress we have had in this industry. The days-long freeze and week of ice and snow caused a litany of problems for our members.

Due to the labor shortage in our industry, we know of growers who struggled to adequately prep their inventory safely. In some cases, propane trucks could not make it out to remote growing locations to heat greenhouses and in other instances, facilities using electric power to heat structures were cut off of the grid. Leaving their crop to die. Others just didn't have greenhouse space to save all of the trees and bedding plants that were left exposed for days in below freezing temperatures.

The reality of growing crops in our industry is it may take years to mature before harvest. Plants frozen a few weeks ago cannot simply be replanted for this spring. A 15-gallon Tyler rose bush does not happen overnight. A live oak, crape myrtle, or mountain laurel take years to grow for market. Looking forward, the impact of this winter storm will be felt across our industry for the next 4 - 5 years.

The Texas Nursery & Landscape Association write to you today to inform you of the shortage of plant materials that the Texas market is experiencing. While suppliers are trying to buy plants and trees from Florida, Arizona, and California even those supplies are being limited to Texas buyers. As a result of these market limits, it will be essential that municipalities be flexible in their plant and tree size designations based on local ordinances. Variances from current codes will need to occur to accommodate this recovering period in the Texas Green Industry.

Should you have questions about this letter or the state of the industry, please call me (512-579-3850).

Sincerely,

Amy Graham  
President/CEO