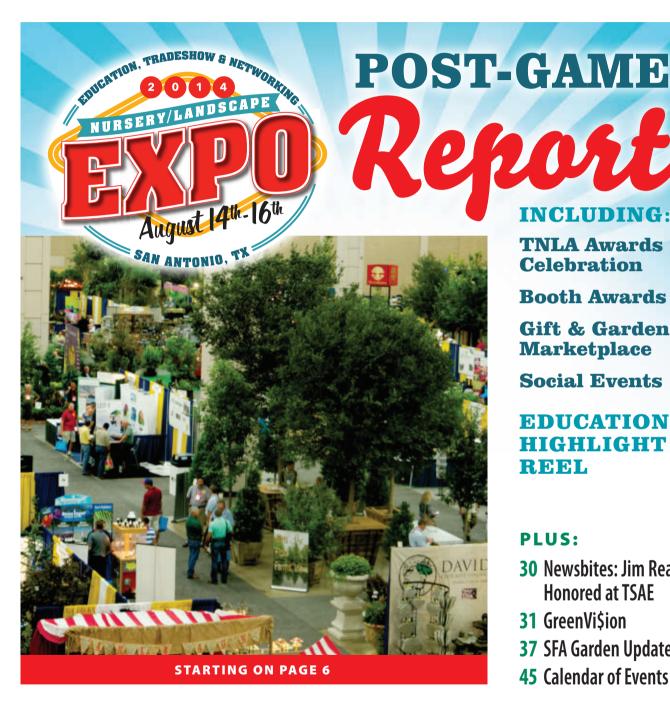
TNIAGREEN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION



INCLUDING:

TNLA Awards Celebration

Booth Awards

Gift & Garden **Marketplace**

Social Events

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT REEL

PLUS:

- **30** Newsbites: Jim Reaves **Honored at TSAE**
- 31 GreenVi\$ion
- **37** SFA Garden Update
- **45** Calendar of Events



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TNLAGREEN

NOV-DEC 2014

FEATURES

6 2014 EXPO Post-Game Report

The Nursery Landscape EXPO is THE premier horticulture Education Conference and Tradeshow for face-to-face interaction, networking, education, buying opportunities, and professional development. This year, EXPO was held Aug. 14-16 in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention. Relive the exciting event with our photo recap. Plus:

Social Events *p.10*A Night of Mystery: TNLA Awards Celebration *p.17*Booth Awards *p.21*Fishing Trip Winner *p.27*Gift & Garden Marketplace *p.27*Thank You Sponsors *p.29*

14 2014 EXPO Education Highlight Reel

This year's EXPO Education offered three days of learning in a variety of tracks, as well as three inspiring and innovative Keynote speakers.

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- 31 GreenVi\$ion Earth-Kind® Landscape Principals II: Soil Analysis and Preparation
- **37 SFA Gardens Update** Is Conservation Horticulture an Opportunity or a Headache?

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TNLAGREEN

the official publication of the Texas Nursery & Landscape Association

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER • VOL. XVI NO. 6

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A Video Message from Amy Graham, TNLA President

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Texas Nursery & Landscape Association's mission is to enhance members' business success through legislative/regulatory advocacy, education, networking, and promotion of professionalism.

TNLA GREEN



POST-GAME Resolt



he Nursery/Landscape EXPO is THE premier horticulture Education Conference and Tradeshow for face-to-face interaction, networking, education, buying opportunities, and professional development. This year's EXPO was held Aug. 14-16 in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and was an action-packed three days where everyone was a winner. Just flip through our Post-Game Report for a visual recap of the Game's excitement!





The Winner's Circle EXPO HIGHLIGHTS AT-A-GLANCE:

EDUCATION was held on all three days with more than 100 CEUs offered by Landmark Nurseries!

3 **KEYNOTES** presentations brought record attendance

The Gift & Garden MARKETPLACE presented by GO TEXAN showcased gifts and a new niche of products

A beautiful Parks and Patio **DISPLAY**

Great Welcome to San Antonio
PARTY with the Southern Drawl
Band drew many together for an
extra opportunity to collaborate
with each other off the
Tradeshow Floor see page 10.

A Night of Mystery: TNLA Awards **CELEBRATION** was filled with mystery, intrigue and lots of winners! see page 17.

Best Booth **AWARDS** See page 21.















PAC-MAN IN THE PAC LOUNGE!

TNLA hosts a VIP lounge for donors to its Political Action Committee (PAC) every year as a thank you to all its contributors. This year, there was a friendly Pac-Man competition that get the competitive juices going!



IL CONTROLL OF THE PROPERTY OF

The Parks & Patio Crew. Front (I-r) Sam Weager, Anne Muscat, Charles Britton, Heather Hardee, Johnette Taylor, Mengmeng Gu. Back (I-r) Ken Morrow, Derek Whisenand, Laura Gruenau, Joseph Johnson.

PARKS & PATIO: ALWAYS HITTING IT OUT OF THE PARK!

Thank you to Tarrant County College for creating the design, to the TNLA Parks and Patio Task Force for all the on-site hard work, and to all the exhibitors that donated products. It was a wonderful team effort that truly paid off!

TASK FORCE

Chairman, Anne Muscat

Blooming Ideas & More Beach City, TX

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Charles Britton, Jr.

Britton Consulting Lubbock, TX

MengMeng Gu

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Derek Whisenand

Whiz-Q-Stone Fort Worth, TX



WELCOME TO SAN ANTONIO PARTY

Thank you, Tree Town USA for sponsoring EXPO's Welcome to San Antonio Party. It was an awesome evening with casino tables and photo booth fun sponsored by TGI. The Southern Drawl Band, sponsored by OHP, Inc. were a huge hit and kept everyone dancing!



Fun Jimes off the TRADE SHOW FLOOR

This year's EXPO featured several exciting social events after the Tradeshow Floor closed, allowing attendees to network while recharging their engines!















CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS RECEPTION

This annual event is held in conjunction with the Nursery/ Landscape EXPO and is an exclusive party for TNLA Certified individuals and a guest. This outstanding event would not be possible without our generous sponsors: Calloway's Nursery, TNLA Region IV, Arborbrace Staking Systems, Chamblee's Rose Nursery, Hotchkiss Insurance Agency, LLC, Nicholson-Hardie, TNLA Region II, TNLA Region IV, TNLA Region VIII



















CHAIRS' RECEPTION

Chairman Paul Tomaso hosted an invitation-only reception to honor VIPs, top sponsors, key participants to TNLA Political Action Committee (PAC), and those who are active in moving Texas' Green Industry forward. It was a way to appreciate TNLA's most generous and active contributors, and to connect and network with key industry leaders. Thank you Enterprise Fleet Management for sponsoring this wonderful event!











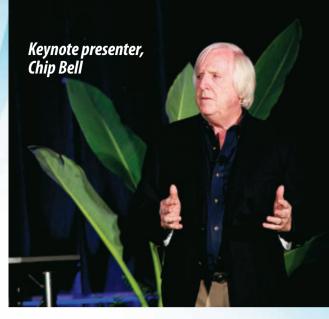
Education HIGHLIGHT REEL

This year's education was three days packed with learning. Each day included a Keynote speaker free for all Tradeshow attendees. This year's speakers were Chip Bell, Robert Stevenson and John Kennedy. Each session was filled with attendees and got rave reviews. In addition to the keynotes, there were more than 25 breakout session offering more than 100 CEUs by six different accreditors! This year's education also included the TNLA Irrigation full day track. Attendees not only earned their necessary CEUs, but also got to attend the Tradeshow to maximize their time in San Antonio.



TNLA GREEN

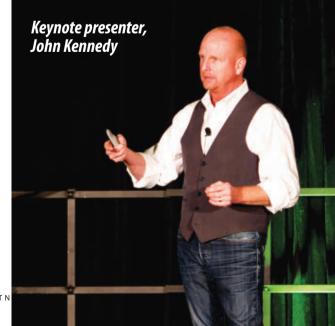


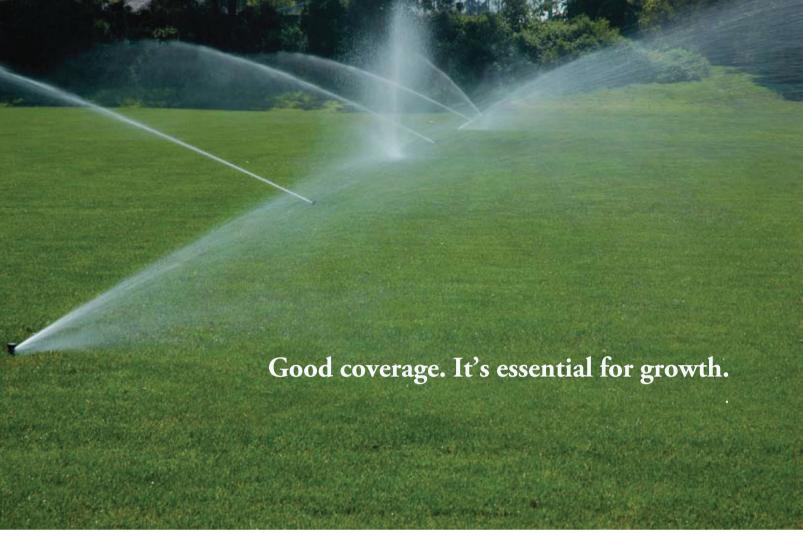














With over 30 years of experience and the endorsement of the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA), Texas Turf Irrigation Association (TTIA) and many other industry associations, we understand what it takes to protect your green industry business. We'll make sure you have the coverage you need to protect your business and that it's cost-effective. Both are good objectives for growth. As a Trusted Choice® independent agency, we'll access many of the nation's leading insurance companies to provide all the coverage your business needs in one strong yet cost-effective solution.



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A Night of Mystery TNLA AWARDS CELEBRATION

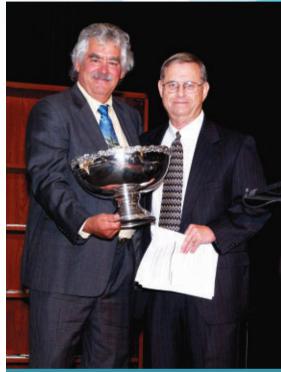
This year we had an exciting and mysterious evening at our Awards Celebration. It was held on Friday, August 15th at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. It was hosted by Chairman of the Board Paul Tomaso who helped honor all the deserving award winners.



MANY THANKS to our sponsors for making this event possible:

Texas Green Industry Workers'
Compensation Group, State Fair
of Texas, Calloway's Nursery,
KBW Supply , Southern Botanical,
Wilhite Landscape & Lawn Care,
Roundtree Landscaping, Inc.,
Southwest Wholesale Nursery,
Greater Texas Landscapes





ARP AWARD: WINNER

James Wilhite, Wilhite Landscaping

The highest honor granted to an individual by TNLA and given annually since 1942, this award is given to a nursery professional that has made outstanding contributions to the nursery/landscape industry. These individuals exemplify the Association's ideals: innovation, service, and highly ethical behavior in both business and personal lives.



hile everyone took home new contacts, great memories and a satisfied appetite, only a select few garnered the top prizes within their respective project categories. Even more impressive were the credentials of the "Big Four" award recipients who shined only slightly brighter than their impressive credentials and accolades while taking home the highly coveted Arp, Young Leader, Summit and Grand Platinum Awards. Congratulations to all who participated.





SUMMIT AWARD WINNER: KBW Supply

The highest honor bestowed on a member firm recognizing them for exceptional contributions to TNLA and the industry, the Summit Award exemplifies innovation, service, and highly ethical behavior in the way a business conducts its affairs. Summit Award Finalists: Landmark Nursery, Living Earth and KBW Supply.



Jim Prewitt, Landmark Nursery



Gary Kinney, KBW Supply



Neil Sperry, Landscaper & Journalist

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER A person who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, has rendered unusual or distinguished service to the nursery or landscape industry or in the general field of horticulture.



▲ GRAND PLATINUM WINNER

ValleyCrest Landscape Development for the Dallas Arboretum Rory Meyer's Adventure Garden. Presented to Matt Fisher by Parks & Patio Chair, Anne Muscat



A YOUNG LEADER AWARD WINNER

Jade Hopson, Circle G Nursery presented by Jared Pyka, 2011 Young Leader Award winner. This honor is bestowed upon a young TNLA member (under 41), who, through their efforts to the Association, the industry and the community, has already made a significant and noticeable impact.

TEXAS EXCELLENCE IN LANDSCAPING (TEIL) AWARDS

These accolades recognize excellence in landscape design, installation, maintenance, and special landscape projects. This program reflects the Association's commitment to creating and preserving the integrity of the Texas landscape and recognizes landscape and lawn care professionals executing superior projects by encouraging use of quality materials, workmanship, and professionalism. Below is a complete list of the winners:

GOLD

AJ's Landscape & Design Inc. - Rieb Residence
Clean Scapes, LP - Boot Ranch
Lambert Landscape Company - Classic Contemporary Retreat
Southern Botanical - Rose Residence
ValleyCrest Landscape Development - Dallas Arboretum
Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden
ValleyCrest Landscape Development - Klyde Warren Park
ValleyCrest — Nustar Energy Campus Water Feature

SILVER

Absolutely Outdoors - Jefferson Project AJ's Landscape & Design Inc. - McPhail Residence Clean Scapes, LP — Hill Country Galleria Clean Scapes, LP - River Place Corporate Center Greater Texas Landscape Services - Austin Center Lawns of Dallas - McCann Residence Lawns of Dallas - McEvov Residence Lawns of Dallas - Bent Tree Estate Metheny Commercial Lawn Maintenance, Inc. – George W. Bush Presidential Library Roundtree Landscaping, Inc. - Townhome Residence Southern Botanical - Royal OaksCountry Club Southern Botanical - Park Cities Estate Site Planning Site Development – 290 John Carpenter Courtyard Renovation ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance - Research Park Place

BRONZE

AJ's Landscape & Design Inc. - Vickery Residence Clean Scapes, LP - Research Park Plaza, Buildings III & IV Greater Texas Landscape Services - 816 Congress Terrace Site Planning Site Development - TRT Holdings Headquarters Southern Botanical - Katy Trail Outpost ValleyCrest Landscape Development — Circuit of The Americas

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Absolutely Outdoors – Santamaria Residence
Absolutely Outdoors - Wagner Residence
AJ's Landscape & Design Inc. - Heights Retreat
Clean Scapes, LP – Silverado at Brushy Creek
Clean Scapes, LP - Southpark Meadows
Greener Pastures Landscape - Dallas Presbyterian Hospital
Greater Texas Landscape Services - Tarry House
Sunscape Landscaping - Serene Hills HOA (maintenance)



Central Road and Utility (CRU) has been in business for 10 years and has grown from six employees to 46. "Renting machines saves us time and money, especially when one of our machines is not working properly. Renting also helps us free up assets. Renting machines allows us to eliminate repair and haul expenses," states Cirilo.

CRU currently rents a track loader, excavator, dozer, skid steer loader, wheel loader and a water truck from The Cat Rental Store. CRU also owns six Cat® machines. "My dealer treats me like I am family. If I need parts or service, I can count on them," states Cirilo.

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BOOTH AWARDS

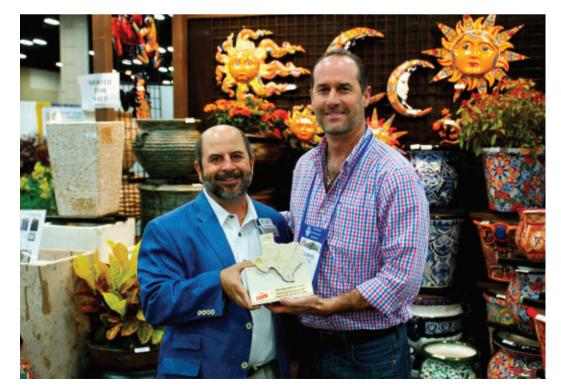
Beginning with the 1967 Tradeshow held in Austin,
Texas, Nursery/Landscape EXPO began
distributing awards to Exhibiting companies with
the most attractive displays. ▶





SMALL GREENLINE:

Seville Farms Lillian, TX



SMALL HARDLINE:

D'Barro Pottery Woodlands, TX

BOOTH AWARDS

There are a total of six awards distributed. Of those awards, one hardline and one greenline award is designated for Small Exhibits (those with one to three exhibit spaces), one hardline and one

greenline award is designated for Medium Exhibits (those with four to six exhibit spaces) and one hardline and one greenline is designated for Large Exhibits (those with seven or more exhibit spaces).



MEDIUM GREENLINE:

Texas A&M AgriLife Research Dallas Dallas, TX



MEDIUM HARDLINE:

Fiore Stone, Inc. Colton, CA Selection criteria for booth award recipients consist of attention getting, product promotion, design/graphics effective in conveying message, booth size versus amount of product displayed — enough

to effectively sell targeted products, and full compliance with the Nursery/Landscape EXPO Display Specifications. This year's winners were:



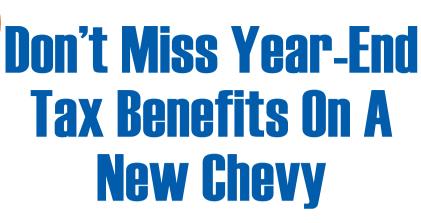
LARGE
GREENLINE:
Color Spot Nurseries

San Antonio, TX



LARGE HARDLINE

Living Earth Dallas, TX



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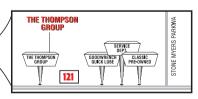
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Dallas Total Home & Gift Market

January 14-20

featuring hundreds of outdoor home furnishing and gift lines

Uncover hidden profits at Dallas Market Center, the destination for Outdoor, offering more new lines of furniture, decorative accessories and gifts.

MEET THE TNLA FISHING ADVENTURE



Winner!



www.kbwsupply.com

This year KBW
Supply generously
donated an Offshore
Snapper Fishing
Charter for one lucky
winner and 5 of his
friends! More than

250 people entered at the TNLA booth over the three days of EXPO, but Emmanuel Atilano was the lucky winner and is excited about the adventure! Congratulations Emmanuel - we can't wait to see some pictures from the trip!

THE Gift & Garden MARKETPLACE

Scored Big with Attendees!



GO TEXAN.

This was the second year for the Gift and Garden Marketplace at the EXPO and it was even more impressive than

last year! There were 25 booths (10 more than last year!) showcasing their unique products and gifts. Thank you to our Gift and Garden Marketplace partner: Go Texan.







Sponsors

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE EXPO WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS!









































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TNLA Region 5
TNLA Region 7
TNLA Region 8

Newsbites

TNLA's Jim Reaves Honored at TSAE



Jim Reaves giving his acceptance speech for the Professional Excellence Award at TSAE

OUR VERY OWN Iim Reaves. Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, was honored with the Professional Excellence Award by the Texas Society of Association Executives (TSAE) at their annual conference in Ft. Worth on September 8th. The Professional Excellence Award recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to their association and demonstrate abilities for continued high levels of achievement in the

field of association management. Jim was nominated by President Amy Graham for his tireless contribution to the Association and its members. Jim works throughout the legislative session to ensure TNLA is an active part of all conversations that affect its members, as well as working outside the capitol grounds on issues like Citrus Greening, Immigration and Labor Reform (both on state and federal level), transportation and the Texas drought. As if that weren't enough, he also is an active member of Texas Water Smart coalition and manages the TNLA PAC. Of the many benefits TNLA offers its members, Jim's work has been sited time and time again as one of the most important.

Please join us in congratulating Jim on this well-deserved honor!



Jim and his support system of TNLA staff and family (I-r)



New Citrus Green Detected in Ft Bend & Montgomery Counties

ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 TNLA was notified that positive detections of citrus greening were found in Fort Bend and Montgomery Counties. The former Harris County Quarantine is now called the Gulf Coast Quarantine. If you grow, sell or plant citrus trees in any of these three counties, effective now, your products are on a "stop sell" order by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). If you move one of these trees you are in violation of the quarantine and could be assessed a fine up to \$5,000 a tree.

PLEASE NOTE: All Citrus
Greening Quarantine compliance
agreements held in Harris County
are still valid. Nothing has
changed for you. Growers outside
of Harris County with compliance
agreements are still allowed to
ship citrus into Harris County if
the recipient also has a compliance
agreement.

For more information, visit the TNLA Green Talk blog at tnlagreentalk.blogspot.com

GreenVi\$ion

Earth-Kind® Landscape Principals IV-2: Appropriate Plant Section for Salinity

by Mengmeng Gu, Ph.D.



Mengmeng Gu ,
Ph.D. is an Assistant
Professor/Extension
Specialist at TAMU.
She received her BS in
landscape horticulture
and MS in ornamental
horticulture from
Beijing Forestry
University

e'll focus on the fourth aspect of seven Earth-Kind landscape principals in this article:

- Planning and design
- Soil analysis and preparation
- Practical turf areas
- Appropriate plant selection
- · Efficient irrigation
- Use of mulches
- Appropriate Maintenance.

Why Is Salinity An Issue In Urban Landscape? Water shortages and poor water quality are critical issues in many regions in the United States. With a rapidly increasing population and diminishing water supply, the competition for fresh water among agriculture, industry, urban and recreational users has become intense. Alternative water sources, such as municipal reclaimed water, has long been used for irrigating golf courses, lawns, parks, and street medium in southwestern states of United

States where high quality water supply is limited. In recent years, the use of reclaimed water irrigation has expanded to urban landscapes and suburban agricultural production, including food crops in California and Florida.

Have you heard of 'toilet to tap' in Texas? CBS News reported this on July 10, 2014 about the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality approving Wichita Falls' proposal for a toilet-to-tap reuse program for up to six months. Wichita Falls is the second city in the Lone Star State reusing treated wastewater (aka reclaimed water) to bolster drinking supplies, after Big Spring, whose spring dried up 90 years ago. This is just an extreme example of the drought conditions occurring in much of Texas and many other parts of the country.

How would that affect landscape management? We may need to think more and more about landscape irrigation using reclaimed water. It is actually already implemented in many places around Texas, where irrigation system is colored in purple.

Municipal reclaimed water, also known as recycled water, is produced at a wastewater treatment plant where treatment processes are designed to ensure that reclaimed water is safe and reliable for its intended use. Compared to potable water, reclaimed water typically has increased concentrations of salts, especially sodium and chloride. In addition, nitrogen and phosphorus are almost always present in reclaimed

(continued on page 32)



FIG. 1. Salinity in irrigation water may cause reduction in plant size of all parts of a plant, including leaves, stems, roots, and fruit, and foliar damage such as marginal leaf burn or scorching, chlorosis, leaf necrosis, and premature leaf drop. 'Titan' vinca plants in this picture were irrigated with tap water, and at 2.8, 4.0, 5.1, and 7.4 dS·m-1 from left to right.

(continued from page 31)

water, which can benefit plants. The major concern of using municipal reclaimed water for irrigating landscapes with multiple species is the elevated salinity, which causes foliar salt injury or even death on sensitive plants. The salinity of reclaimed water depends on the source of water and treatment. Therefore, proper plant selection and irrigation management is the key to successfully use municipal reclaimed water for urban landscape irrigation.

Salinity definition and measurement. Salinity is defined as the concentration of dissolved mineral salts found in waters or soil solutions. The individual chemical constituents that contribute to salinity in waters include potassium (K+), calcium (Ca2+), magnesium (Mg2+), sodium (Na+), chloride (Cl⁻), bicarbonate (HCO3⁻), nitrate



FIG. 2. Black-eyed susan, a very drought tolerant plant, had foliar salt injury when irrigated at 3.2 dS·m-1, and all plants were dead by the end of the growing season when irrigated with saline solution at EC of 5.4 dS·m-1. All other nine species did not exhibit any severe salt damage as seen in black-eyed susan.

(NO3⁻), sulfate (SO42-), boron (B), aluminum (Al3+), and silica (SiO2). Overall salinity is reported as the concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS) and expressed in mg·L-1. TDS is obtained by evaporating a sample of water or soil solution down to dryness and weighing the

residue. A common expression and simple measurement of overall salinity in agriculture and horticulture is the determination of electrical conductivity (EC) of a water or soil/substrate extract (ECe).

The ability of a water, or solution, to



conduct electricity is directly related its concentration of salts, and the units to report EC are mmhos·cm-1 or dS·m-1 (same unitary value). While there is no exact relationship between TDS and EC, there are some approximate conversion factors. For waters or solutions with EC up to 5 dS·m-1, TDS is approximated by multiplying EC value (in dS·m-1) by 640, and by 800 for more saline solutions (>5 dS·m-1). TDS of fresh water is less than 500 ppm or EC<0.8 dS·m-1. EC of reclaimed water is usually 2 to 3 times that of potable water, depending on location and treatment.

The measurement of EC in waters is straightforward, but becomes more involved when determining it in soil solution. The most widely used method to determine EC of soil solution involves its extraction from a saturated paste or media extract, requiring the collection (destructive procedure) of a representative sample of soil or substrate from the root zone. Other procedures to evaluate the EC of the soil solution in the root zone of plants and crops include 1:2 and 1:5 dilutions (soil to distilled or de-ionized water ratios, on a v/v basis), the pourthrough technique, and the use of various extraction devices such as suction cups or samplers. The EC values obtained from each soil solution extraction method have to be diagnosed with their specific and respective interpretative scales or guidelines.

Salinity is not a static property of the soil solution. It is strongly and dynamically influenced by soil moisture content, which changes both spatially and temporally. The concentration of dissolved salts does not change in direct proportion to changes in soil moisture content due to solubility, (continued on page 34)

Table 1. Salt tolerance of selected bedding plant	Table	1. Salt to	lerance of	f selected	bedding p	olants.
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Salinity

Botanical name	Common name	Cultivar	Salinity Tolerance
Angelonia angustifolia	Angelonia	Lavender Pink	MT
A. angustifolia	Angelonia	Purple	MT
A. angustifolia	Angelonia	White	MT
Capsicum annuum	Ornamental pepper	Black Pearl	M
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	Calico	M
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	Purple Flash	MS
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex April Fool's day	M
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex Christmas	MS
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex Easter	М
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex Halloween	М
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex Cinco de Mayo	М
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex Memorial Day	MS
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex Thanksgiving	М
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex Twilight	М
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex St. Patrick's Day	у М
C. annuum	Ornamental pepper	NuMex Valentine's Day	М
Catharanthus roseus	Vinca	Rose	М
Gomphrena sp.	Gomphrena	Fireworks	MT
Helenium amarum	Helenium	Dakota Gold	MT
Helichrysum petiolatum	Licorice Plant	Silver Mist	MT
Lupinus havardii	Big bend bluebonnet		М
L. texensis	Texas bluebonnet		MT
Petunia x hybrida	Petunia	Baby Duck Yellow	MT
P. x hybrida	Petunia	Mirage Rose	MT
P. x hybrida	Petunia	Spreading Rose	MT
Plumbago auriculata	Plumbago	Escapade Blue	MT
Zinnia marylandica	Zinnia	Zahara Coral Rose	S
Zinnia marylandica	Zinnia	Zahara Fire	S
Zinnia marylandica	Zinnia	Zahara Rose Starlight	S
Zinnia marylandica	Zinnia	Zahara Scarlet	S
Zinnia marylandica	Zinnia	Zahara White	S
Zinnia marylandica	Zinnia	Zahara Yellow	S
Z. maritime	Zinnia	Solcito	S

- T: tolerant; plants plants did not have any visual salt injury with minimum growth reduction at electrical conductivity of irrigation water at 12 dS·m-1 or above.
- MT: moderate tolerant; plants did not have any visual salt injury with minimum growth reduction at electrical conductivity of irrigation water at 4 to 6 dS·m-1 or above.
- M: moderate tolerant; plants had minimum visual salt injury and acceptable growth reduction at electrical conductivity of irrigation water at 3-4 dS·m-1.
- MS: moderate sensitive; plants exhibited salt injury and growth reduction at electrical conductivity of irrigation water at 3-4 dS·m-1 or above.
- S: sensitive; plants did not surve or had severe salt injury and significant growth reduction at electrical conductivity of irrigation water at 3-4 dS·m-1 or above.

(continued from page 33)

cation exchange, and ion association issues. Therefore, salinity is a dynamic property in the root zone, due to concentration of the soil solution by water extraction and selective uptake from plant roots, evaporation, and replenishment by irrigation or rainfall. It is a better idea to take multiple soil samples in representative spots of a landscape in order to learn the soil salinity.

General responses of landscape plants to salinity. Plant salt tolerance is typically defined as the ability to withstand the effects of high or increasing salinity without significant adverse effects such as growth or yield reduction, or foliar salt damage. Under saline conditions, all parts of a plant, including leaves, stems, roots, and fruit may be reduced in size. For landscape plants, the typical symptoms of



FIG. 3. Purple ice plants (Delosperma cooperi) is VERY salt-tolerant, and may not show any visual damage when irrigated with 12.0 dS·m-1 for 11 weeks.

initial salt injury are stunted growth and foliar damage such as marginal leaf burn or scorching, chlorosis, leaf necrosis, and premature leaf drop. As salt stress becomes severe, older leaves show these symptoms more acutely and eventually extending to the whole plant with less green

leaves remaining in the plant. For many herbaceous species, plants may become less branched and thus few flowers (Figure 1). For flowering woody shrubs and trees, buds may fail to open or grow and branches may die.





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Salt injury symptoms are more obvious under hot, dry and windy conditions compared to cool, humid environments. This is because plants absorb more water and the evaporation rate is higher under hot, dry, and windy conditions compared to cool, humid environment. As mentioned above, soil salinity is strongly influenced by soil moisture content. The dry the soil becomes the high the soil salinity. Therefore, plants are subject to high salinity for longer period of time under hot and dry conditions compared to cool and humid conditions.

Salt tolerance is not associated with drought tolerance. Drought tolerant plants are not necessarily tolerant to salinity. In a field salt tolerance study, ten herbaceous perennials and groundcovers (yarrow---Achillea millefolium, Firewheel---Garillardia aristata, Homestead verbena---Glandularia canadensis 'Homestead', garden verbena---G x hybrida, purple lantana---Lantana montevidensis, 'New Gold' lantana---L. 'New Gold', honeysuckle---Lonicera japonica, rosemary---Rosmarinus officinalis, black-eyed susan---Rudbeckia hirta and spike verbena---Verbena macdougalii) were irrigated with tap water or saline solutions at EC of 3.2 or 5.4 dS·m-1. After three months being irrigated with saline solution in a landscape setting in semi-arid climate, we found that black-eved susan, a very drought tolerant plant, had foliar salt injury when irrigated at 3.2 dS·m-1, and all plants were dead by the end of the growing season when irrigated with saline solution at EC of 5.4 dS·m-1 (Figure 2). All other nine species did not exhibit any severe salt damage as seen in black-eyed susan.

In another outdoor study, several woody shrubs and trees were (continued on page 36)

Table 2. Relative salt tolerance of selected herbaceous perennials and groundcovers.

•		Salinity
Botanical name	Common name	Tolerance
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	М
Agastache cana	Wild hyssop	MS
Berlandiera lyrata	Chocolate daisy	S
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides	Hardy blue plumbago	М
Delosperma cooperi	lce plant	T
Echinacea purpurea	Purple coneflower	S
Gaillardia aristata	Firewheel	MT
Gazania rigen	Gazania	MT
Lantana	New gold lantana	MT
L. camara	Purple lantana	М
Lavandula angustifolia	Lavender	MS
Lonicera haliana	Honeysuckle	MT
Penstemon eatonii	Firecracker penstemon	S
P. pseudospectabilis	Pink showy penstemon	S
P. strictus	Rocky mountain penstemon	S
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary	MT
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed susan	S
Salvia coccinea	Scarlet sage	S
Teucrium chamaedrys	Germender	M
Verbena canadensis	Purple verbena	M
V. hybrida	Garden verbena	M
V. macdougalii	Spike verbena	М

For tolerance symbols: T, MT, M, MS, S, refer to the footnote of Table 1.

Table 3. Relative salt tolerance of selected ornamental shrubs and trees.

Botanical name	Common name	Salinity Tolerance
Cercis canadensis var. Mexicana	Mexican redbud	S
Chilopsis linearis	Desert willow	MS
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian olive	MS
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Green ash	MS
Prunus angustifolia	Sand plum	S
P. besseyi	Sand cherry	S
P. serotina	black cherry	S
Sophora secundiflora	Texas Mountain laurel	М
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese elm	MT

For tolerance symbols: T, MT, M, MS, S, refer to the footnote of Table 1.

(continued from page 35)

irrigated with tap water or saline solution. The drought tolerant desert willow (Chilopsis linearis) had defoliation when irrigated with saline solution at 4.0 dS·m-1 for three months in a semi-arid climate. There are many landscape plants that are tolerant to both salt and drought stresses. For example, Angelonia angustifolia 'Purple', 'White', and 'Lavender', lantana 'New Gold', and Chinese elm.

Salt tolerance of landscape plants. Salt tolerance of a plant varies largely with species or even cultivars within a species. Some plants, like purple ice plants (Delosperma cooperi), may not show any visual damage when irrigated with 12.0 dS·m-1 for 11 weeks (Figure 3). The actual response of a plant to salinity is often affected by climate conditions, type of substrate or

With a rapidly increasing population and diminishing water supply, the competition for fresh water among agriculture, industry, urban and recreational users has become intense.

soil, irrigation management, and its growth or developmental stage. For each salinity level, it is possible to select a number of genotypes whose growth and/or aesthetic values are not affected or only slightly. Obviously, as salinity levels increase, the number of genotypes that can tolerate the stress becomes smaller.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 list relative salt tolerance of plants from herbaceous to woody landscape plants based on author's research results in greenhouses and field plots. Although difficult to quantify due to its dynamic nature, root

zone salinity is the actual salinity plant roots are subject to. Before using poor quality water for landscape irrigation, site assessment is needed. Well drainage is of primary importance to prevent salt accumulation in root zone. It is recommended to periodically monitor the root zone salinity to make sure no excessive salts are accumulated. In case, salts are already accumulated in the root zone, leaching salts with high quality water and improve the drainage is the only way to push salts out of the root zone.



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Notes from SFA Gardens Is Redbud the New Crapemyrtle?

by Dr. Dave Creech



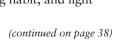
Dr. Dave Creech is Professor Emeritus and directs SFA Gardens, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas

ne of my friends recently asked, "Dave, are redbuds the new crapemyrtle?" Actually, I hadn't even thought of redbuds that way. Sure, there's an avalanche of new crapemyrtle varieties, but redbuds? Well, I got to thinking and my friend may be right. This outstanding native, a true harbinger of spring, is experiencing a growth curve of interest simply because the market is exploding with exciting new cultivars.

Mike Dirr's 2009 Manual of Woody Landscape Plants lists over thirty varieties. Since then, the menu for redbud foliage and flower color and tree form has exploded. No doubt the the introduction of gold foliaged varieties has created plenty of excitement. Cercis canadensis 'Hearts of Gold' (PP17740) is a Jon Roethling introduction that features striking yellow new leaves with reddish tints on a tree of excellent form with foliage that quickly turns green in our East Texas climate. Cercis canadensis The Rising SunTM 'JN2' (PP 21451) is a breakthrough tricolor with new growth apricot colored maturing to chartreuse to a final deep green.

For the burgundy foliage enthusiasts, there's plenty to choose from. While 'Forest Pansy' features reddish purple leaves and is a standard in the South, it tends to green up quickly and can be prone to tattered foliage. Denny Werner's Cercis x 'Merlot' (PP 22297) is an improvement. It's a fine vase shaped tree, a cross between Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy' and Cercis canadensis var. texensis, with tatter proof foliage that keeps color longer into the summer, a tree blessed with strong heat and drought tolerance.

For fans of weeping redbuds, it's really hard to beat Cercis canadensis var. texensis 'Traveller', a Dan Hosage introduction. While it's been around for years, this tree still gets an A+ for clean glossy foliage and beautiful habit. 'Ruby Falls' (PP22097) is another Denny Werner creation, the result of a 'Covey' X 'Forest Pansy' cross, which features a striking weeping habit with large durable leaves. For those who don't know the parent 'Covey' (PP 10328), it's also known as Lavender Twist®. It's an introduction by Tim Brotzman of Ohio which features very large leaves, strong weeping habit, and, in our area, a tendency to sunscald major branches at the top of the tree where foliage tends to be rather sparse. Tim has recently introduced 'Vanilla Twist' (PP22744), which features white flowers, a weeping habit, and light green leaves.





Cercis Canadensis Alley Cat

(continued from page 37)

While I've never met a variegated plant I didn't like, the redbuds 'Silver Cloud' and 'Floating Clouds' tend to burn in our Texas sun and the variegation can quickly fade away. In very light shade or protection from western sun, they do quite well and can be quite striking when grown well. 'Alley Cat' is new to our garden, an Allen Bush introduction, and is reported to feature more distinct variegation that won't fade or burn as the summer intensifies. Time will tell on this one.

In the past year, I've run into two brand new varieties out of North Carolina that I consider real breakthroughs. Both left me stunned. One is Cercis X 'Pink Pom Poms' (PPAF), another Denny Werner breakthrough. We tested it as NC 2008-1 and it's a joint release



Cercis Carolina Sweetheart

between NCSU and Hidden Hollow Nursery, a 'Flame' x 'Oklahoma' hybrid. It sports huge double flowers (up to 50 petals per flower – no, I'm not lying), a cool reddish-purple flower color, absolutely sterile (no seed pods), and features nice "texensis-like" glossy leaf character. What's not to like there? The second variety is one you can't get - yet. 'Carolina Sweetheart' (PPAF) is a Tom Ranney introduction which

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Cercis Pink Pom Poms

will be sold only in North Carolina for the first year. In June 2014, I saw this redbud from a distance at Tom's work place, the beautiful Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center near Mills River, North Carolina. I remarked, "Hey, Tom, what's that tree with the bright pink flowers." He smiled and said, "Well, Dave, those aren't exactly flowers, those are leaves." When we made our way to the tree, I

found myself gasping for breath, slightly dizzy and wondering if I had snips and baggies. This variegated beauty features the most remarkable brilliant pink/green/white foliage I've ever seen on any plant, not just a redbud – truly a polychromatic explosion up close and far away. After 2015, 'Carolina Sweetheart' will be released to the world via a unique NC State University/North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association/Conrad Pyle agreement. Drat. I wasn't part of the deal. As you might suspect, Tom was watching me closely and, while the temptation was great, I kept my snips in my holder, and, as a Texas Aggie, while I may tear up every now and then, I never resort to begging. I'm working on him for a plant or two to trial in the garden. Until that happens, let's applaud what these fine breeders in the Tarheel state are doing, and let's keep planting. ~



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Use a layer of mulch in your planting beds to minimize evaporation – and make a little water last a whole lot longer.



Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses for shrubs and trees to reduce evaporation and apply water directly to roots where it's needed.



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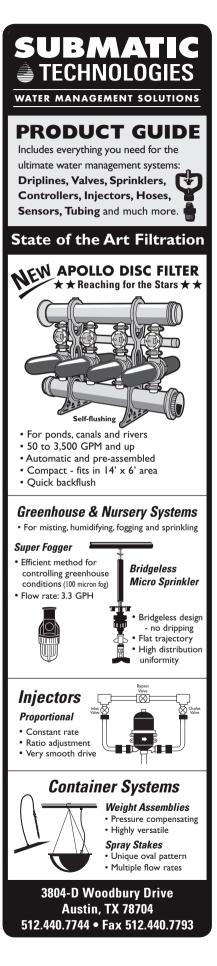
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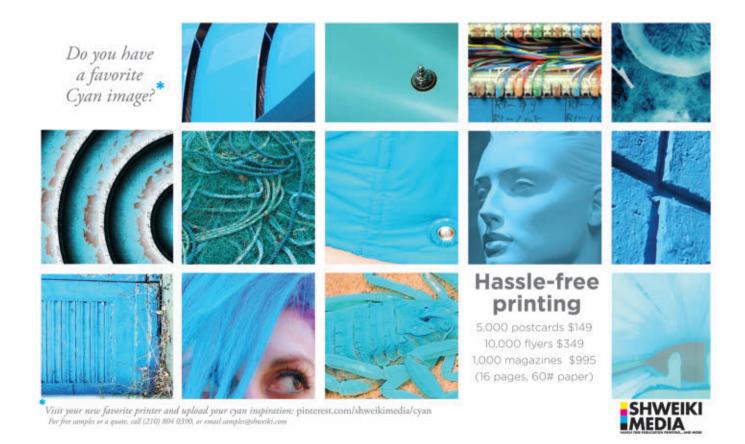


CHARLES EDWARD BLACK,

SR. was born in Barstow, Texas on March 24, 1917 to Josiah T. Black and Donnie S. Black. He attended public schools in Barstow where he lettered in football. While attending the College of Mines in El Paso, he was on the track team. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Tech where he

majored in Agriculture with another Major in Horticulture. During World War II, Charles served in the Army in the Pacific Theater, based in the islands of New Caledonia, Fiji and the Philippines. He was discharged from the Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant. In 1946, Charles formed a small retail and landscape company, known as Black's Nursery. He served as President of the El Paso Association of Nurserymen, President of Plains Association of Nurserymen as well as President of Texas Association of Nurserymen. He was a past President of Ysleta Lions Club, served on the El Paso Parks Board, El Paso County Parks Board, the Civic Center Building Committee, the Mountain Committee, and Beautify El Paso. He also served on the Government Relations Committee of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce. Charles was a sponsor of Ysleta

baseball program for over 30 years, was elected to the Board of Directors of El Paso County Water Improvement District II, and was one of the founders of the Valley Bank, now Compass Bank. Charles had a life-long love of trees, admiring their beauty and usefulness in the world. In his work as a Texas Landscape Architect, he always incorporated trees in the landscape plans that he drew. He also formulated "Black" Diamond" Fertilizer. He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 62 years, Joann Mason Black, two sisters, Catherine Ellarena Black and Marjorie Black Nichols as well as by his nephew. Charles Donald Nichols, and a host of his extended family, all of whom he loved very much. Left to cherish his memory are his children, Vicki Black Walker (Bill), Charles, Jr. (Lizette) of El Paso, Texas, foster daughter Nola Costa Dippenaar (Pierre) of Pretoria, South Africa, his grandchildren Matthew Walker (Laura) of Vancouver, Canada, Joanna Garrison (Trev) of Austin, Texas, Kathryn Gutierrez (Arthur) and Ashleigh Black, both of El Paso, Texas and three foster grandchildren, Dwayne, Lori and Megan Joann, all of Pretoria, South Africa. Charles was truly a member of "The Greatest Generation" and was a decent, kind, and generous man and he was loved and admired by all who knew him.



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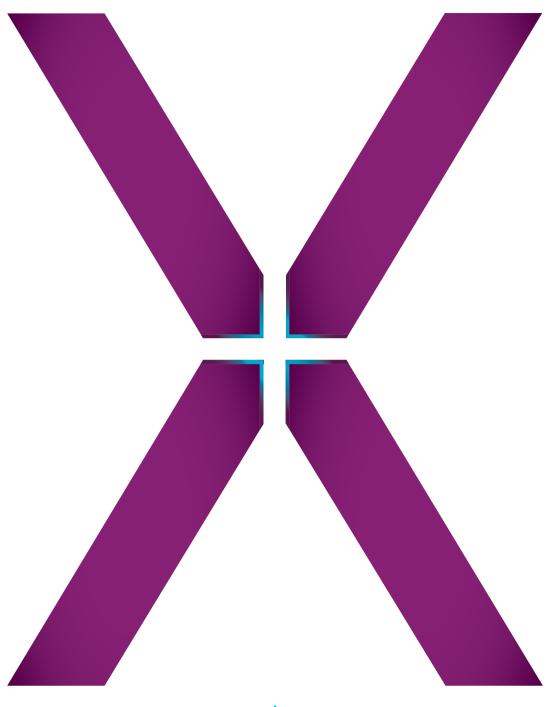
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