FIRE-SAFE LANDSCAPES / SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS / INTRODUCING TLE PANELS

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July/August 2025
vol.28 - no.04

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

AND MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONAL



INDUSTRY LEADERS IN THE TRENCHES

Trenching, Piping, and Irrigation Systems

SINKS TO FLOWERS

Greywater Irrigation Conversion

TARIFF UPDATE

Associations Cautiously Optimistic

The 2025 - Anaheim LANDSCAPE Expo

DESIGN • BUILD • MAINTAIN • SUPPLY

November 12th & 13th

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John 7.38 (ESV) ... "Whoever believes in me, as the Scriptures has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

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Best Practices of Trenching and Piping

by Rebecca Radtke, LCMP

Landscape Contractor and Maintenance Professional Magazine asked a few industry leaders to share their best practices through the stages of piping and trenching.



Above: The Ditch Witch C16X Walk-Behind Trencher has a max trenching size of 36 inches deep and 6 inches wide.

Before Digging

Each industry expert LCMP interviewed recommended starting with a plan above all else.

John Stokes, CEO of Backflow Test Pro, stressed the importance of calling 811 before using any machinery when you trench a yard. "Never use an excavator without calling 811," he said. He also recommended marking out all trenches with paint first to ensure it goes according to plan.

Brandon Burgess, Senior Conservation Specialist with the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, agreed on the importance of calling 811 before digging and also said to use proper PPE safety gear like gloves, work boots, safety glasses, and ear protection when using trenching machinery.

Burgess also advised conducting a moisture check to ensure that the soil can handle the trenching. This is important because too-dry soil can lead to compaction, which can cause undue strain.



Left: During the planning process, it is important to check the soil to ensure there isn't any collapse or compaction during the install process.



Above: Brandon Burgess with the Chino Basin Water Conservation District recommends laying mainlines 12 to 18 inches into the ground.

PHOTO CREDIT: DR. BERND LEINAUER

Installation Tools

For pipe installation, Stokes recommends using 20-foot sticks of Schedule 40 PVC pipe for completing long runs quickly. He favors Christy's red-hot glue with primer because it dries fast and advises staying away from the 200-class pipe that a lot of other professionals use because — though it's cheaper with a slightly better flow rate — it is much weaker due to the thin wall.

He also recommends the



Left: This wireless moisture sensor from UgMO Technologies measures the soil temperature and salinity levels every ten minutes.

Victor brand of pipe cutters, Bandsaws, and sanding or ream the ends of your pipes, so the flatness of the pipe doesn't just push all the glue to the back of the fittings but allows the glue to spread throughout the fitting.

Below: Subsurface drip irrigation was added at the Las Campanas Golf Club for six of the nine tee boxes. PHOTO CREDIT: DR. BERND LAINAUER



When preparing to dig, Stokes said, "For trenching, use a trencher; hand tools such as Pelaski, Pick Axe, and trenching shovel (a 4" Orange Shovel works great); and a mini excavator."

Burgess reiterates Stokes' points: irrigation professionals should use Schedule 40 or Class 315/200 PVC for durability and pressure resistance while using purple primer and solvent cement for the pipe type and making sure to dry fit before gluing to ensure proper alignment. However, he adds that conducting a pressure test before backfilling is beneficial — typically at 150 PSI for two hours.

Then, with lateral line installation, Burgess advises using Schedule 40 or Class 200 PVC — depending on the design and layout — and avoiding crossing over the mainline, as lateral lines should tee off from valves and not above the pressurized mainline. He urges professionals to flush before capping to remove debris and to use flexible swing joints to connect sprinkler heads that could lead to breakage while allowing for head height adjustment. Using valve boxes to protect valves and allow for easy access is suggested. Further, level valve boxes to grade and select waterproof connectors.

Pipe Sizing

Doug Callison from Callison Irrigation Consulting explained to LCMP that pipe sizing is based on peak system flow rate, velocity, length of run, and allowable pressure loss. Burgess said, when trenching for mainlines, be sure to dig 12" to 18" deep to protect from root intrusion and accidental puncture. Further lateral lines should be 8" to 12" deep, depending on pipe size and site conditions, while the width should be just wide enough to work — 6" to 8" is typical. Some important points he made include avoiding tree roots to protect plant health, as well as keeping removed soil on tarps or in a designated area to avoid contamination. Burgess also said to use sand or clean soil to cushion PVC pipes and prevent sharp rock puncture, and to compact backfill in 6" lifts to prevent future settling.



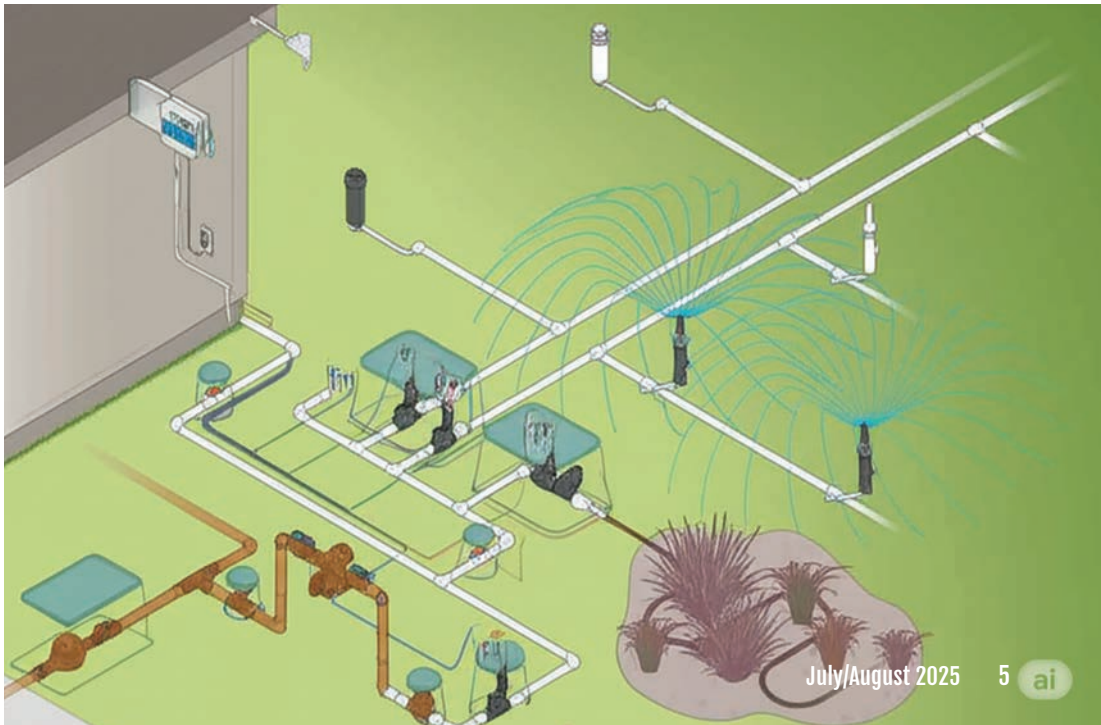
Above: A smart irrigation system from Irrigreen features digital spray nozzles that control the spray pattern and allow for zone watering. This system features a variable radius spray that dynamically changes to adapt to a site's specific terrain, spacing, and pitch. These systems are efficient offering up to 50% less water use, distribution uniformity, and runoff reduction.

Post-Installation Recommendations

Use native soil free from rocks and debris and compact in layers to avoid settling. Create an updated diagram showing the actual layout, which may differ from the irrigation plan.

Run each zone — checking pressure, flow, coverage, and leaks — as part of the zone testing process. Finally, be sure to label zones so controllers can be easily identified by maintenance crews. LCMP

Below: It is important to have a good plan in place before trenching, including placing the water meter, backflow preventer, control valves, and mainline and lateral lines.



Tariffs and the Landscape Industry

by Rebecca Radtke, LCMP

Tariffs are seemingly affecting everything, including the landscape industry. From materials used in products like steel and aluminum seeing overall price upticks to concerns of disrupted supply chains, industry leaders are uncertain what the immediate effects of the economic method will be. With all that in mind, the industry appears to be cautiously optimistic.

LCMP Survey Responses

Landscape Contractor and Maintenance Professional Magazine conducted a survey asking landscape professionals if their business had been affected by the tariffs or if they anticipate being affected in the future. The most common responses were along these lines:

"Some contractors are scrambling to purchase materials before tariffs are in place. New quotes for materials are building in 25% markup for tariffs."

"No, I don't [see any effect due to the tariffs]. I will be happy to not pay income tax anymore. Pretty excited to see America come first for once."

"Clients are beginning to be cautious about spending money since there is such a level of uncertainty about what the tariffs will be. The stock market swings affect how much confidence my clients have in spending money on a landscaping project. The cost of materials will certainly go up. The tariffs are just a way to tax the American public."

National Association Feelings – Cautiously Optimistic

Further, national associations had varying feelings regarding the economic move. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) published a news article saying that a Section 232 investigation was launched on March 1 focusing on whether lumber imports are a national security threat. According to the association, "The week-to-week framing lumber composite price was up 1.2% on July 11, 2025, holding at $427 per 1,000 board feet. This was the first price increase in nearly three months. Softwood lumber prices have dropped 0.2% over the past month, however, they remain 18.9% higher than they were one year ago. Western Fir plywood prices were down 0.6%. Southern Yellow Pine (SYP) plywood prices were down 1.5%." Steel, however, is now at its lowest point since 2017.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) and the Outdoor Power Products Aftermarket Association signed two coalition-led letters that address Section 232 — part of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 that authorizes the President to adjust imports if the Secretary of Commerce determines that



the import is a national security threat. The coalition is urging the Department of Commerce to move away from Section 232 over-reliance. The letter shared concerns that "there is a need for a transparent regulatory environment for planning investments and maintaining infrastructure."

Finally, the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP), says that most landscape divisions had concerns regarding material availability and supply chain issues but, due to the pandemic, manufacturers had already expanded their supply chain and reviewed mitigation practices to keep production costs in check. All in all, the association professionals have not seen major disruptions thus far, and they continue to monitor and plan for the unknown.

Remodeling Market Sentiment Dips

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) released the second quarter NAHB/Westlake Royal Remodeling Market Index (RMI) showing a reading of 59, marking a four-point drop over the previous quarter. The industry is currently facing a slowdown due to economic uncertainty from government policies and high interest rates.



While the reading is still positive, it is the first time since the survey was revised in 2020 that it is under 60. Further, the Current Conditions Index is the average of the current market for large remodeling, moderately sized projects, and small projects readings, while the Future Indicators Index is made up of the current rate at which leads and inquiries are coming in and the backlog of projects. Any number over 50 shows a positive standing. This quarter, the Current Conditions Index marked a reading of 66 — a five-point drop — while the Future Indicator Index averaged 51 — a four-point dip.

"Although remodeler sentiment softened in the second quarter, overall, it remains positive," said NAHB Chief Economist Robert Dietz. "High interest rates and economic uncertainty are headwinds for remodeling, but not to the extent that they have been for single-family construction. Even with these headwinds, NAHB is projecting that remodeling will post solid gains in 2025, followed by more modest but still positive growth in 2026."

According to the Global Market Insights, the increased rate of remodeling can be attributed to the growth in homeownership and the deterioration of older homes. The market is projected to grow between 2025 and 2034 by 3.8%.

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NAHB, NLC, and IA Pleased with the Big Beautiful Bill Tax Policies

by Rebecca Radtke, LCMP

The One Big Beautiful Bill was signed into law on July 4 and includes tax reform for a variety of elements effecting landscape professionals, including the expansion of 529 education savings plans, R&D tax credit, full equipment deduction, and fair interest deductibility, to name a few.

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) **applauded** the legislation — when the Senate passed it on July 1 — saying, "NAHB commends the Senate for passing the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. This legislation will help **spur economic growth and allow our members to invest** more **resources in multifamily rental construction, land development** to build more single-family homes, and new **equipment** to expand their businesses."

NAHB's AVP of Government affairs J.P. Delmore added, "The No. 1 item in this bill and what it does for builders — and for all business owners, frankly — is permanency"


Above: The One Big Beautiful Bill was favorably received by industry associations.

The National League of Cities (NLC) sent a letter to Congress which called on "the nation's more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages, we ask for your support of local government priorities as the Senate advances consideration of The One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act." In subsequent releases the NLC also said, "key outreach from local leaders across the country produced several local government wins, including the preservation of tax-exemption on municipal bonds."

Further, the letter also expressed concerns regarding the provisions like changes to clean energy tax credits, program funding already awarded to local governments and being used for economic opportunities, the 10-year moratorium on state and local government regulation of AI, and preserving state flexibility.

The Irrigation Association (IA) via IrrigationToday said that there were several tax-focused provisions with implications for the irrigation industry, manufacturers, and small businesses. Those provisions included the **529 plan expansion** for **industry certifications**, the **restoration of R&D expensing**, full **equipment deductibility**, **fair interest**, and **199A deduction enhancement**. With that, the IA had communicated its support for the bill's provisions and noted that they aligned with priorities during the 2025 IA Advocacy Summit.









Greywater for Commercial Landscapes

by Joseph Gallegos, Grey4Green

Above: For greywater distribution, use a six-inch irrigation valve box filled with mulch to absorb the greywater and help the greywater distribute into the soil. Run the flow right into the box and set the irrigation box so the top is flush with the surface. Inside use a standard drip hose valve to control the flow of greywater.

Top, Right: K-Rain indexing valves are designed to work with greywater systems. The valve uses water pressure to cycle through irrigation zones. The valve is durable and features fewer moving parts.

Bottom, Right: A three-inch PVC gate valve is used to control the flow of water in a three-inch diameter PVC pipe.

The biggest difference in using greywater — compared to potable city water — is how it is delivered. City water is delivered when you need it by pressurized pipes. Greywater on the other hand, needs to be generated by use (someone must wash their hands or turn on the air conditioner). In most cases, greywater is collected in small, 20-gallon batches before it is distributed.

For example, greywater is first collected in a basin/tub until it reaches a capacity that the submerged pump can then kick on and push the water out to an irrigation zone. Each zone is a row of trees, shrubs, or turf areas. In most of our designs, we recommend using a six-zone Indexing valve from K-Rain or FIMCO. These valves are like having an irrigation controller and multiple zone valves built into one product. Each time the submersible pump kicks on to push water out to one of these valves, the valve indexes to the next zone. Depending on the size of the basin, the water delivered to the zone is 20-to-30 gallons of water. The next cycle will then deliver 20-to-30 gallons to the next zone, and this will continue in a round-robin. You can connect these indexing valves in series, meaning the first six-zone indexing valve can support six more indexing valves behind it, giving you a total of 36 zones to work with. This is easily the biggest design change you will need to make on new and existing landscapes.

Government Rules and Regulations in California

In general, greywater has been allowed in California for decades. The basic rules prohibit kitchen water, and all untreated greywater must be delivered under at least three inches of mulch. This can include three inches of soil or more, such as in a subsurface turf irrigation pipe (our standard irrigation delivery design). The easiest way to meet this legal requirement is to deliver the greywater into six-inch-diameter irrigation valve boxes that are full of mulch — one for each tree — or you can deliver the greywater in a mulch trench along a row of shrubs.

One additional rule to follow is that greywater cannot be stored for over 24 hours (unless it is treated to prevent bacterial growth and odor in a high-quality system) and trust me, after 24 hours it starts to smell, so you want to distribute the greywater as soon as it is generated.

High-End Greywater Systems

There are greywater cleaning systems that clean the water to high quality (NSF 350). This allows the storing of the greywater over 24 hours, and this "clean" greywater can be delivered by traditional, pressurized surface irrigation systems. The problem most typical is that the laws also require you to install a backflow valve, annual inspection fees for the valve, and a high inspection fee for the initial installation that typically exceeds $2,000. In comparison, the system described at the start is a passive, non-pressurized system with low permitting fees. The permit follows a standard septic tank leach field permit. A pressurized system permit and inspection water system costs more, as it requires multiple field inspectors and is required to be retested for all commercial properties that are dual plumbed.





Above: This picture shows exposed greywater drip lines headed to landscapes. It is recommended that they be covered with mulch.



Above: This commercial building produces enough condensation — within the cooling system — to keep a landscape green.

Permitting

The municipality has the responsibility for the overall design and the construction permit. There is an additional layer of permitting with the county health department, who wants to make sure that the untreated greywater is delivered to the landscape three inches below a mulch layer or soil layer and that the system is non-pressurized. If it is a pressurized greywater system, the health department will request an onsite inspection before you cover up all the irrigation pipes.

Designing Greywater Irrigation System

Step One: Divert the greywater from the current sewer connection to an outside wall where the landscape irrigation crew can access it. This is a lot easier than most people think. The basic idea is you cut the drainpipe right after the trap and install a tee, with one end going straight into the pipe you just cut (inserting a gate valve between the tee and the sewer pipe) and the other part of the tee pointed to the outside wall. By closing the gate valve, the greywater is diverted to the outside of the building. By opening the gate valve, greywater flows to the sewe .

Step Two: The collection and pump to distribute the greywater out into the landscape. These are the mechanical parts, including the submergible pump, indexing valves, and makeup water line (vacation valve).

Step Three: The distribution piping out in the landscape. I have had a project where we did this first with anticipation that the building was going to be renovated and during the renovation, the greywater was going to be diverted. LCMP

VIP at The Landscape Expo - Anaheim



by Rebecca Radtke, LCMP

The Southwest's largest Landscape Industry Show is back! The Landscape Expo – Anaheim will be held on November 12th and 13th! This two-day event is packed with seminars, demonstrations, workshops, panel discussions, social events, and 3+ acres of exhibits from all facets of the commercial industry.

The best way to experience the show is through the VIP Conference Package! As a VIP Package Attendee, you'll enjoy unlimited access to Seminars, the Exhibit Hall, the Industry Reception, and the VIP Lounge. Be sure to check our website for Early Bird Rates through Labor Day Weekend.

Seminars

This year's lineup of over 50 seminars and panels features tracks including Grounds Management, Equipment Selection and Safety, Plant and Tree Selection and Care, Irrigation, Outdoor Living, Business Management, and more . . .





Above: To date, nine industry associations are exhibiting and several others are offering CEUs, including the ISA, IA, DPR, PGMS, APLD, NALP, LA/CES, and QWEL. Beyond exhibiting, various members from these associations will present seminars or sit on the Future of Landscape panels, like University of California Cooperative Extension's advisor Beatriz Nobua-Behrmann, Ph.D., AGZA founder Dan Mabe, Donald Bottger with PGMS, Hispanic Arborist Association's Jose Mercado in the Tree Academy, ACP Executive Director Katya Forsyth, and so many more across the 50+ CEU-applicable seminars!

Business Owners

Improve your business practices at this year's Landscape Expo with industry-leading experts, exhibitors, and panels! Besides installation and maintenance equipment — and all the supplies you need as a commercial landscape professional — you'll find exhibitors and seminars helping you with Marketing, Insurance, Equipment Selection, Employee Safety and Retention, and Business Development as well.

Grounds Management Series

Cities, Schools Districts, Universities, Cemeteries, Parks Depts, Amusement Parks, and Zoos . . . Grounds managers play an important role in the industry! Learn about "Specific Tree Selection" from Disneyland's Steve Jimenez. Join the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) and explore the ins and outs of OSHA safety and compliance with former Director of Venue Operations at the San Diego Convention Center and PGMS expert Donald Bottger. Head to the TLE Tree Academy for a STHIL-led Chainsaw Safety course that is sure to improve tree maintenance safety standards. Relevant courses include a ground squirrel pest control session with Agri Turf's Art Guzman, "Irrigation Scheduling for Maximum





The Future of Landscape - Panel Series

Sustainable Techology

For years, we have added smart controllers to irrigation systems and now, as technology evolves (as seen in this issue of LCMP), it is important to continue to stay focused on the latest technology. This year, we will continue to have cutting-edge industry leaders meet, featuring Doug Callison, founder of Callison Irrigation Consulting; Nicholas Staddon, Monrovia Growers; Gary Lai Landscape Architect with Quixotic Nature-based Solutions; and Kim Chacon, Ph.D., educator with Cal Poly SLO. The experts will discuss the most current, cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices hitting the market through the scope of their various specialties. This panel will be hosted on Nov. 12 at 11:30 p.m.

Autonomous Landscape Equipment

Dennis Huggins with Husqvarna; Dan Mabe, founder of AGZA; and Ruben Flores with Mt. SAC will be exploring the benefits of autonomy, technology, and infrastructure requirements involved in the implementation of autonomous equipment in the landscape. Held on Nov. 12 at 1:15 p.m., this is a must-see course for every team member.

Artificial Intelligence in the Landscape

Bobyard founder Michael Ding, German Vargas of TopFleet, and other industry leaders will discuss the implementation of AI into various elements of business, including fleet tracking, generative AI, billing, analytics, and more. This panel will be hosted on Nov. 12 at 3 p.m.

Growing L.A. After The Fires

At the beginning of the year, Los Angeles was hit by a destructive fire that became a huge opportunity for growth, change, and development in the industry. Gregory Rubin, a licensed design/build landscape contractor with California's Own Native Landscape Design; Doug Kent, an author, educator, and seasoned Landscape Expo speaker; Natalie Levy, Ph.D. with UC ANR who is currently the Soil Health and Organic Materials Management Advisor that's working on the ground; and Stephanie Landregan, Landscape Architect will be discussing the planning, design, clean up, and best practices moving forward.



Water Savings" with Callison Irrigation Consulting's Doug Callison, pest control courses, site safety, and more!

TLE Tree Academy

If you work with trees, then you'll want to explore the TLE Tree Academy, sponsored by Jose Mercado of the Hispanic Arborists Association. At TLE, you'll learn about tree selection, tree care, pest control, and fertilization. By the Big TLE Oak Tree, join live safety and rescue demonstrations and test electric equipment inside the exhibit hall.

TLE is Your Equipment and Truck Central

Shop amongst scores of equipment and truck dealerships serving the Western Region. Work Trucks, Loaders, Movers, Mowers, Blowers, Trenchers, and all kinds of commercial -grade equipment are the highlight of TLE! And if you're looking for a work truck, TLE is your "One-Stop" shop for adding to your fleet or finding a truck of any size for any crew and any job.

Wednesday Night Industry Reception

After the Exhibit Hall closes, Conference Attendees can enjoy the Wednesday Night Reception in the company of TLE Speakers, industry leaders, exhibitors, and your friends and peers from every corner of the landscaping industry with your free admission, drink ticket, and Casino Night in the Exhibit Hall. VIP Conference Attendees have the freedom to roam the exhibit hall during the party with their exclusive access.



So, make your plans today to attend The Two-Day Education Conference and Trade show for Commercial Landscape Professionals . . . The Landscape Expo – Anaheim, November 12th & 13th, 2025! LCMP



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NOVEMBER 12TH & 13TH



Here's What's Happening at TLE

Wednesday 8:00 AM - Seminars


Heidi Burgess

Weed Control in Turf from Fall to Spring Season
Heidi Burgess, Corteva Agriscience


Adam Carr

Best Practices of Landscape Inspection
Adam Carr, Irvine Company

Rigging for Removal
Jose Mercado, Hispanic Arborist Association


Mike Garcia

Advanced Irrigation Flow Sensing
Doug Callison, Callison Irrigation Consulting

Pond Design 101
Mike Garcia, Enviroscape LA


Susan Sims

Tree Pests
Susan Sims, Sims Tree Health Specialists

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Exhibit Hall Open



Wednesday 9:45 AM - Seminars


Douglas Kent

Firescaping: Fire-Resistant Landscapes
Doug Kent, Author and Educator

5 Marketing Mistakes Landscape Entrepreneurs are Making
Rob Murray / Vanessa McQuade


Ron Whitehurst

Managing Ants in The Landscape
Ron Whitehurst, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, Inc.

Chainsaw Safety in the Landscape
STIHL


Wei Zhang

Urban Forest Soil Genomics Workshop
Wei Zhang, Tree Diaper

Wednesday 11:30 AM - Seminars


Jose Mercado

The Future of Landscape Panel - Sustainable Technologies
Doug Callison / Nicholas Staddon / Gary Lai / Kim Chacon

Proper Palm Pruning
Jose Mercado, Hispanic Arborist Association


Kathleen Hallal

Success in Sustainability: Answering Market Demand for Safer Landscape Methods
Kathleen Hallal, Biosolutions


Arrt Guzman

What Are You Wearing? PPE in the Workplace
Karey Windbiel-Rojas, UC IPM


Karey Windbiel-Rojas

Proper Pruning
Art Guzman, Agri Turf

Wednesday 1:15 PM - Seminars


Bill Millward

Irrigation Hydraulics
Bill Millward, Rivulist


Brandon Burgess

Native Know-How: Fast-Track to California Native Landscapes
Brandon Burgess,
Chino Basin Water Conservation District


Ron Whitehurst

The Future of Landscape Panel - Autonomous Landscape Equipment
Dan Mabe / Dennis Huggins / Ruben Flores

How to Grow Healthy Citrus
Ron Whitehurst, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, Inc.


Sal Hernandez

Developing a Successful Business
Sal Hernandez, Consulting

Wednesday 3:00 PM - Seminars

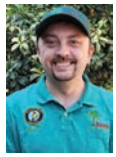

Donald Bottger

OSHA
Donald Bottger, PGMS

Drought, Heat, and Pest-Resistant Landscape Trees for Southern California
Jeff Drongowski, Calsense


Jeff Drongowski

Recognizing Tree Problems and Solutions
Kevin Sims, Sims Tree Health Specialists


Kevin Sims

Right Plant, Right Place: A selection of plants proven to perform in our Southern California Climate
Nicholas Staddon, Monrovia Growers


Nicholas Staddon

Happy Hour Reception
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM











Thursday 8:00 AM - Seminars


Adam Carr

Coordinating Commercial Landscape Construction and Maintenance
Adam Carr, Irvine Company


Beatriz Nobua-Behrmann

Invasive Borers in Urban Forests: Identification, Impacts, and IPM Solutions
Beatriz Nobua-Behrmann, UC Coop. Extensionducers

Secrets of Award-Winning Landscaping
Mike Garcia, Enviroscape LA


Mark Pedicone


Steve Jimenez

Latest Developments in Smart Commercial Controllers
Mark Pedicone, Imperial Sprinkler Supply

Site-Specific Tree Selection
Steve Jimenez, Disneyland

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Exhibit Hall Open

Thursday 9:45 AM - Seminars


Doug Callison

Irrigation Scheduling for Maximum Water Savings
Doug Callison, Callison Irrigation Consulting

The Future of Landscape Panel - Growing L.A. After The Fires
Gregory Rubin / Doug Kent / Natalie Levy

Arborist Report Writing Palms/Insects/Disease
Gabriel Gomez, Veseris


Michael Ding

Basic Pruning
Jose Mercado, Hispanic Arborist Association

AI and The Future of Software Technology
Michael Ding, Bobyard


Michael Bernier

Think Like a Client and Design Like a Pro
Michael Bernier, Think Outside



Thursday 11:30 AM - Seminars


Dane Shota

Sustainable Permaculture Landscape with or without Native Plants
Dane Shota, Arborist


JJ Stoeckel

Arborist Report Writing
Erik Diaz, West Coast Arborist

Backflow Preventer Basics: General Knowledge, Repairs, and Testing
JJ Stoeckel, Backflow Test Pros


Katya Forsyth

Compost Use on Turf Grass: Regenerative Landscaping and SB1383 Compliance
Katya Forsyth, Association of Compost Producers


Wister Dorta

Root Problems
Susan Sims, Sims Tree Health Specialists

Turf Control
Wister Dorta, Arborjet Ecologel

Thursday 1:15 PM - Seminars


Gabriel Gomez

Grub Control
Gabriel Gomez, Veseris


Jose Mercado

Palm Tree Safety
Jose Mercado, Hispanic Arborist Association

Facilitating a Partnership Between Arborists and Designers
Kevin Sims, Sims Tree Health Specialists

Landscaping for ADUs
Michael Bernier, Think Outside


Wei Zhang

Healthy Soils Support Healthy Trees – The Amazing Soils Genomics
Wei Zhang, Tree Diaper

Current 2025 Sponsors (7/17/25)

Show Ends **3:00 PM**

The Landscape of Irrigation in California

by Brandon Burgess, Chino Basin Water Conservation District

Understanding Outdoor Water Efficiency Regulations in California

Water has always played a foundational role in California's story. With a hot, dry climate, a growing population, and increasingly frequent droughts, it's no surprise that the state has taken significant steps to tighten its outdoor water use. If you work in landscaping, you've probably already felt the effects. California's new water regulations are beginning to reshape how we design, install, and maintain landscapes, especially in commercial spaces.

The thing is, while change can feel overwhelming, it can also be an opportunity. These new rules aren't just a set of hoops to jump through. For landscape companies that understand what's coming and adapt accordingly, this shift opens the door to lead the way in sustainable practices and grow in the process.

Let's break down what's happening, what it means for the landscape industry, and how professionals like you can position your business to not only stay compliant but thrive.

What's Driving California's Push for Water Efficiency?

Back in 2018, the state took a major step forward in water conservation with the passing of Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668. These bills laid the groundwork for California's long-term strategy for water efficiency, shifting much of the responsibility from individual users to the urban water suppliers who provide water to about 95% of Californians. These suppliers are now required to meet Urban Water Use Objectives, which are essentially customized water budgets for their service area based on climate, land use, and irrigation efficiency.

It's important to understand that while these rules don't directly penalize homeowners or property managers, they absolutely influence how landscapes are managed. Water suppliers are being pushed to meet conservation targets, and to meet these targets, they're leaning on customers — especially commercial users — to make serious changes. That's where landscaping professionals come in.



Above: California passed SB 606 and AB 1668 that further push water conservation in the state. The bills focused on water efficiency and focuses on water suppliers' role in efficiency. These bills require urban retail water suppliers to calculate their urban water use objective every year by November 1.

In 2023, California doubled down with the passage of Assembly Bill 1572. This bill bans the use of potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf in commercial, municipal, and institutional landscapes. The rollout begins in 2026 and is staggered over a few years, depending on the type of property. Turf is considered "nonfunctional" if it's purely ornamental and not used for recreation, events, or other community purposes. Residential lawns are not impacted, and there are exemptions for recycled water and turf that share irrigation with trees or shrubs.



Right: This nonfunctional turf renovation — an irrigation system managed through a recirculating flow of nutrient solution — shows just one practice that can help professionals adhere to new rules in the industry.

The message from the state is loud and clear: turf that doesn't serve a purpose is on its way out in our commercial properties. It's time to rethink what a modern, water-smart landscape looks like.

What This Means for the Landscape Industry

This shift away from traditional, turf-heavy landscapes is a big deal! But, for landscape professionals, it also brings a lot of opportunity. As clients work to meet new regulations, they'll be looking for guidance on everything from turf conversions and plant choices to irrigation scheduling and water-saving incentive rebate programs. Landscape professionals have a unique position to lead this transition, and many are already helping property owners plan for compliance well ahead of the deadlines.

This isn't just about installing drip lines or choosing native plants; it's about reshaping how people view landscaping — moving from "green at all costs" to climate-appropriate design that's both beautiful and sustainable. That means focusing on plants that thrive in these conditions, building soil health, capturing rainwater when possible, and managing irrigation systems that make every drop count.

It also means becoming the go-to expert who understands not only the design side, but also the regulations, available rebates, and long-term maintenance. The value landscape pros bring is no longer just aesthetic but strategic.

Turning Compliance into Business Growth

Instead of viewing these regulations as a burden, many companies are treating them as an opportunity. The first way to do that is by positioning your business as a sustainability leader. Clients want to work with professionals who know the rules and

can help them stay ahead of the curve. Earning EPA WaterSense-approved certifications like the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) or CLCA's Certified Water Manager (CWM) through recognized training programs is a great way to build trust and stand out.

Another key opportunity is in expanding the services your business provides. Companies that offer landscape water audits, smart irrigation system upgrades, and full redesigns that replace turf with climate-adapted plantings are already seeing increased demand. Some are even partnering with local water agencies to help clients take advantage of rebates and other financial incentives. This adds value to your services and helps clients stretch their budgets further, which is something every property manager appreciates.



The above image shows the transition from a typical commercial irrigation system into a landscape that follows AB 1572's limitations. This bill bans potable irrigation of non-functional turf across specified property types, while preserving turf essential for recreation and community use.

Staying ahead of future regulations is another smart move. There's no doubt that California's water policy will continue to evolve, and proactive businesses will stay competitive. This includes keeping an eye on upcoming legislation, training your team on water-efficient practices, and investing in technologies that help you monitor and manage irrigation more effectively. AI and real-time soil sensors are no longer far-off tools — they're quickly becoming the standard for smart irrigation management.

Looking Ahead: The Future of Water-Smart Landscapes

The focus on outdoor water use isn't going away; in fact, it's likely to expand. There will be more attention paid to existing landscapes and their performance, especially in suburban and urban areas where outdoor water use makes up a large portion of total water demand. California is moving toward a model where every landscape is expected to justify its water use, and that means retrofits, smart controllers, and updated designs will become standard practice.

At the same time, we're seeing rapid innovation in technology. Smart irrigation systems that adjust based on weather, AI tools that identify leaks, and remote management platforms are already helping contractors offer more efficient and responsive service. These tools will be critical as properties work to meet tighter efficiency targets.

Now is the time to think about where your business fits into this future. Investing in smart technologies, training your staff, and communicating your water-saving strategies to clients can help you build a reputation as a trusted advisor and not just a contractor. This reputation will be more and more valuable as the industry shifts toward accountability and long-term water stewardship.

Acting on Regulations

California's outdoor water regulations are a sign of the times, and they're not going away. But, for landscape professionals, this shift presents more than just a challenge. It's a chance to grow your business, lead the industry in water use efficiency, and make a real impact on California's future.

The first step is getting informed and staying updated. Take time to review your current projects through the lens of water efficiency. Look for ways to integrate one new water-saving approach this quarter, whether that's switching to a weather-based controller, adjusting your plant palette, or improving irrigation scheduling.

Also, talk to your clients. Share what you know about the regulations and help them understand how these changes can work in their favor.

California is moving toward landscapes that are not only beautiful but built to last. If you're ready to lead that change, now's the perfect time to set your business up as a go-to expert in water-wise design and maintenance. LCMP



Above: These legislative initiatives will result in new water ordinances for cities, facilities, grounds managers, and universities, and will lead to new opportunities for Landscape Contactors.

Smart Irrigation Controllers

by Doug Callison, Callison Consulting

Irrigation controllers are the brains of the irrigation system, controlling when and how long each irrigation zone valve operates. Irrigation controller technology advanced over time, adding water management features such as advanced programming, cycle and soak, and flow sensing. In the early 2000s, controllers with internet connections and automated weather-and/or soil moisture-based program adjustments, known as Smart Controllers, emerged on the market.

Today, many areas of the U.S. mandate Smart Controllers for new irrigation systems and offer rebates for upgrading existing irrigation systems with a Smart Controller. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides the framework for testing and labeling weather- and/or soil moisture-based Smart Controllers under the WaterSense program. The EPA estimates that Smart Controllers can save as much as 50% compared to non-Smart Controllers.



Above: A variety of certifications were crafted for contractors and landscape professionals for the EPA WaterSense program. EPA.gov/watersense

Residential Smart Controllers typically utilize Wi-Fi internet communication while commercial Smart Controllers use a variety of internet communication options like cellular, ethernet, and Wi-Fi. The Internet connection provides communication between the Smart Controller and a website or a smartphone application. From there, the user can access the app to configure, adjust, and monitor the system. The website has access to real-time weather data and/or soil moisture readings using Artificial Intelligence (AI) – which allows the technology to learn each site efficiently to best automate – to determine when to irrigate and how much water is required.



The Rain Bird RC2 is just one of the many controller options available for professionals.



Above: WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers are offered in either weather-based or soil moisture-based sensor options. Weather based utilizes internet based weather data to estimate landscape conditions, while soil sensors take onsite in-ground readings of the soil moisture.

The biggest challenge to achieving potential Smart Controller water savings is the correct configuration and programming of the system. Site data needs to be collected for each irrigation zone, including plant type, soil type, root depth, slope, sun and wind exposure, irrigation application rate, and efficiency. When incorrect data is entered, the controller will under- or over-water or operate on the wrong interval. Data collection and programming are best performed by a trained professional.

Another challenge can be reoccurring costs for Smart Controller website use and cellular internet connectivity. Some manufacturers offer no-charge website access for basic, single-controller features while others have yearly charges that vary based on internet communication options, features, and the number and station capacity of connected controllers. Property owners need to budget for these recurring costs.

As the landscape matures and grows over time, it requires adjustments to Smart Controller configuration and programming. Smart Controllers with flow sensors provide email or text alerts to the operator for non-functioning valves and pipe breaks.

Commercial Smart Controllers are available in conventionally wired or 2-wire versions and have larger station capacity and higher-end features. Wi-Fi or ethernet network connections are not always available for spaces like streetscapes or parks. Applications such as cellular internet connections are common. Some systems offer wired and/or radio connections between Smart Controllers on sites with multiple controllers.

Several commercial systems offer mapping functions to locate controller and valve locations. Some maps display valve coverage area, valve operation, and alarms and provide manual operation control. Mapping features are invaluable for contractors or public agencies managing dozens or hundreds of Smart Controllers.

Most systems offer reports for water usage, weather data, programming changes made at the controller by site personnel, and alarms.

When evaluating the best Smart Controller for an application, you should consider a system with features that match the site needs.

Irrigation professionals have several sources for the training required for Smart Controller data collection and programming. The Irrigation Association (www.irrigation.org) provides education and certification programs for irrigation auditing and water management. LCMP



Multifamily Completions Near 40-Year High

Multifamily unit completions saw their highest level since 1986 in 2024, with 608,000 units.

In the South, there were 292,000 completions in 2024 with 48%, the Midwest saw 87,000 or 14%, and the Northeast had 68,000 with 11%.

Further, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), of the multifamily completions, 95% — or 580,000 units — were built for rental use, and 55% of those were in high-density situations.



Single-Family Sentiment at Third-Lowest Reading Since 2012



The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) released the builder confidence numbers for newly built single-family homes in June. Coming in at 32 points, the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) has only posted a lower reading in 2012.

In December 2022, the index hit 31, while in April 2020 it dropped to 30 after experiencing a 40-point decrease — marking the two lowest readings.

"Buyers are increasingly moving to the sidelines due to elevated mortgage rates and tariff and economic uncertainty," said NAHB Chairman Buddy Hughes, a home builder and developer from Lexington, North Carolina. "To help address affordability concerns and bring hesitant buyers off the fence, a growing number of builders are moving to cut prices."

Backflow Preventers

What Landscapers Need to Know About Protecting Water Safety

by John Stokes, CEO Backflow Test Pros, AWWA Cross Connection Control Specialist, AWWA Certified Backflow Tester, C-36 Licensed Plumber

When you turn on your irrigation system, you probably only think about the water flowin in one direction, but what could happen if it started flowing the wrong way? Backflo , the reverse movement of water from your irrigation lines back into the drinking water supply, is one of the most serious threats to public health that can originate right in your landscape. Backflow preventers are essential devices that keep contaminants like fertilizers, pesticides, and bacteria from siphoning into the potable water system.

What Is Backflow?

Backflow happens when water in your irrigation or plumbing system flows backward into the public water supply. There are two primary causes:

Backpressure is when pressure downstream (e.g., from a pump or elevated sprinkler system) exceeds the supply pressure. And **Backsiphonage** is when the supply pressure drops suddenly, like when a water main breaks or a nearby fire hydrant opens, creating a vacuum that pulls water from your pipes back into the drinking water system.

Either situation can cause contaminated water from irrigation lines — often laden with fertilizers, animal waste, or pesticides — to enter the clean water supply. This contamination isn't just theoretical, as documented cases of illness, outbreaks, and even fatalities have been traced back to unprotected or improperly installed irrigation systems.

Who Can Repair Backflow Preventers?

Backflow preventers are specialized devices requiring expert handling. In California, *only licensed plumbing contractors (C-36 license holders) or those with a C-16, C-34, or C-55 license (depending on the type of system) are legally allowed to repair or replace backflow assemblies.* Furthermore, all repairs must comply with manufacturer specifications and local codes. Homeowners or unlicensed landscapers are not authorized to repair these devices — even if it looks like "just a simple gasket replacement" — because improper repairs can compromise the entire system's integrity.

Types of Backflow Preventers

There are several types of backflow prevention assemblies approved for irrigation systems. The most common in landscaping are:

Reduced Pressure Zone Assemblies (RPZs) offer the highest level of protection and are suitable for high-hazard installations where contamination risk is severe. They're bulkier and pricier, but are often required by water districts for irrigation systems, especially in commercial settings.



Right: Wilkins 720A Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) – PVBs are among the most common type of testable backflow preventer found in existing irrigation systems. When being replaced, most water departments now require PVBs to be upgraded to RPZs.

Pressure Vacuum Breakers (PVBs) are affordable, simple to install, and often required by code in landscape irrigation. However, California has moved almost exclusively to RPZs, and most water departments require PVBs to be upgraded to RPZs when being replaced.

Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers (AVBs) are inexpensive but limited, as they can only protect single-zone systems and must be installed at least 6 inches above the highest sprinkler head.

Anti-siphon Valves are the most common type of backflow prevention devices in irrigation systems that are seen in the landscape industry. As long as they are installed properly, they are able to prevent backsiphonage.

Understanding which type to install requires considering factors like system elevation, the presence of pumps, and local code requirements.

Proper Installation of Backflow Preventers and Anti-Siphon Valves

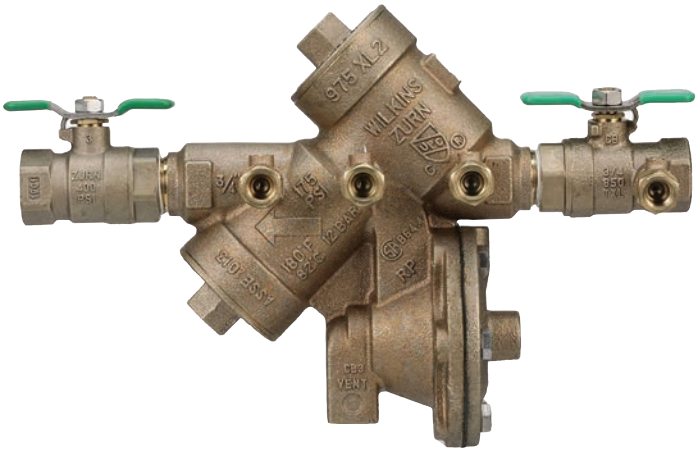
PVBs and AVBs must always be installed at least 6 to 12 inches above the highest downstream point to maintain an air gap preventing back siphonage. Assemblies must remain upright, as tilting or burying them in valve boxes can cause failure. Devices must be accessible for inspection, testing, and maintenance, never buried or concealed. Install shut-off valves upstream and downstream so assemblies can be isolated for repairs or annual testing. For anti-siphon valves — often found in residential irrigation — the installation height is even more critical. They must sit 6 inches above the highest sprinkler head they serve; if they're below grade or level with sprinklers, they won't work, leaving your system and the public supply vulnerable!

Who Tests Backflow Preventers, Why, and When?

Even the best backflow preventer can fail over time due to wear, debris, or freezing. That's why annual testing is required in nearly every jurisdiction.

As of July 1, 2025, the only recognized, accredited agency for backflow testing is the American Water Works Association (AWWA). This means all testers must carry an AWWA certification to have their test results accepted by the water authority.

Annual testing ensures the device shuts off or vents water as designed under backflow conditions. Testing must occur at installation, after repairs, upon relocation, and every 12 months thereafter. In California, many water districts send out notices to property owners reminding them to test and report results, as failure to comply can result in fines or service termination.



Above: Wilkins 975XL2 Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZ)-RPZs are California's current go-to form of backflow prevention. These are the most common type of testable backflow preventers on all plumbing systems.

Title 17 Replaced: The New Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook

One of the most significant recent developments affecting California landscapers and irrigation professionals is the regulatory shift from Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations to the new Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH) waterboards.ca.gov. Beginning July 1, 2025, CCCPH will be the primary standard enforced statewide.

The updated CCCPH standard clarifies installation heights, acceptable assemblies, testing frequencies, and recordkeeping requirements with more detail and consistency than Title 17. Agencies will now have clearer authority to mandate testing, repairs, and shutdowns for non-compliant properties. Every service connection to the water supply, including residential, will be evaluated for cross-connection hazards. That means many homes may need backflow preventers installed.

Previously, enforcement varied widely. CCCPH aims to standardize how local water purveyors implement cross-connection control, improving public safety. For landscaping professionals, the CCCPH means it's more important than ever to install approved devices correctly, keep records of tests, and educate clients about their responsibilities. Ignorance of these rules won't be an excuse when enforcement ramps up. Property owners and contractors will need to stay current with annual testing and repairs, with increased scrutiny from water districts.



Right: Rainbird Anti-siphon valves are the go-to valve for residential irrigation systems in California. **As long as they are installed 6" above the highest head**, they will properly protect against back-siphonage.

Protecting Public Health, One Landscape at a Time

Backflow prevention may not be glamorous, but it's a cornerstone of public health — keeping water safe for everyone. As a landscaping professional, you're on the front lines. By understanding what backflow is, ensuring installations meet updated standards, and partnering with certified testers, you protect your clients and your community.

With California's new CCCPH in effect as of July, there's never been a better time to double-check your knowledge, your installations, and your clients' compliance. Backflow may be invisible to the eye, but the consequences of neglecting it can be disastrous — and the opportunity to do it right has never been clearer. LCMP



Right: Backflow devices should be installed in landscapes so contaminants from the building or the landscape won't be pulled into the public water supply.

Landscape Industry Not Affected by Recent Congressional Review Act



Congressional Review Act actions don't apply to the California gas-powered landscape lawn care equipment ban.

Across the country, 17 states (including Colorado) have adopted the California-based, zero-emission and low-emission vehicle standards. However, on June 12, the U.S. Senate voted to block California's mandate that would phase out gas-powered cars by 2035.

LCMP reached out to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and spoke with the Office of Communications Information Office , Lynda Lambert, who said, "the recent Congressional Review Act actions do not apply to our Small Off-Road Engine regulation (AB1346)."

In 2021, Assembly Bill 1346 directed CARB to begin the pathway to phase out gas-powered, small, off-road engines beginning in 2024. Equipment with a 2024 model year were allowed.

Zone 0 and Fire-Safe Landscapes

California leads the nation in fire safety standards. In 2020, the fir Zone 0 became a formal standard through the passage of AB 3074 and is now becoming an important element.

According to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Zone 0 is the ember-resistant zone within five feet of a structure. The state's guidelines are designed to reduce the potential for "direct ignition of the structure from flame contact, by embers that accumulate at the base of the wall, and/or indirect debris or other combustible materials located close to the structure that result in either a radiant heat… or a direct flame contact exposure to the structure."

The new guidlines suggest populating Zone 0 spaces with rocks, fountains, cement, attached stairs, or decks to reduce potential damage.

In February, Governor Newsom signed an executive order to further prepare for future urban firestorms. The order launches initiatives that directs the use of Zone 0, tasks the office of the State Fire Marshal with releasing updated fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for areas under local government rules — which will update planning requirements — and requires CAL FIRE and the Governor's Office of Emergency Service (Cal OES) to work with local and federal partners on the Federal resource ordering system for wildfire response

With that, a California landscape design contest was held to offer design ideas for all budgets for Berkeley Hills to maintain curb appeal and fir zones. Kristina Hill, research director at UC Berkeley's Institute of Urban and Regional Development, administered a wildfire-prepared home design contest at UC Berkeley to display what can be done with these new rules. On August 14, Hill will join LandscapeWebinars.org for a live and recorded session that dives further into the recent fire research by the Insurance Institute for Building and Home Safety, what types of plants and patterns of planting can be specified to reduce fire danger, and examples of these design methods. Head to LandscapeWebinars.org for more information.



California and Arizona Landscape Architects Named ASLA Fellows



The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) recently released the names of 50 individuals who have been chosen to be part of the 2025 Class of Fellows, one of the highest honors an ASLA member can achieve. Twenty percent of this year's class is from California and Arizona alone, with nine from California — almost doubling last year's number — and one from Arizona. The Fellows are (pictured from left to right):

Tiffany Beamer, PLA, SITES AP, OLIN
Liz Einwiller, PLA, EinwillerKuehl Landscape Architecture
Chad Kennedy, PLA, CPSI, Westwood Professional Services
Christopher Kent, PLA, PGAdesign
Sarah Kuehl, PLA, EinwillerKuehl Landscape Architecture
José de Jesús Leal Loera, PLA, Native Nation Building Studio and MIG
Byron W. Sampson, PLA, Arizona State University
Patricia Trauth, PLA, RICK
David Watts, PLA, Cal Poly SLO
Jon Wreschinsky, PLA, Cuyamaca College

The 2025 Class of Fellows will be officially elevated at a special ceremony during the ASLA's 2025 Conference on Landscape Architecture in New Orleans, Louisiana, from October 10-13.



Full Equipment Deductibility



The One Big Beautiful Bill has been applauded by associations like the Irrigation Association (IA) for elements of the tax provisions, such as the full equipment deductibility.

Section 179 was expanded when the bill was signed into law on July 4, 2025. These provisions offer tax benefits that directly incentivize the irrigation industry to invest in new equipment, as the tax code allows for a full deduction on qualifying software and equipment. Section 179 limits for bonus depreciation for qualified property were increased to $2.5 million, while the phase-out threshold was pushed to $4 million starting this tax year.

Section 179 also includes bonus depreciation. This legislation now allows for a 100% permanent bonus depreciation for qualifying property. This includes a temporary 100% bonus depreciation for newly constructed, nonresidential real property used for manufacturing or production if construction began after Jan. 19, 2025, and is placed in service before Jan. 1, 2031, according to Grassi Advisory Group.

Further, businesses can see improved cash flow and reduced cost, which is believed to incentivize businesses such as irrigation for greater tax savings and cutting-edge technology.

CLASS Fund Golf Tournament Draws Full Crowd and Closes in on $2 Million Goal

The California Landscape Architectural Student Scholarship Fund (CLASS Fund) hosted its annual golf tournament on Monday, July 14, at the Aliso Viejo Country Club, drawing a full field of 144 golfers and more than 150 total participants, including sponsors and supporters. The event, which featured a lively raffle and live auction, raised approximately $100,000 for student scholarships. With this year's success, the CLASS Fund's endowment stands at the time of publishing at $1,948,008.35 — just shy of its $2 million goal.



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CLCA San Fernando Valley 2025 Beautification Awards



The Solana property earned Oakridge Landscape, Inc. the Stuart Sperber Memorial Sweepstakes and the Commercial Living Facilities award.

The San Fernando Valley Chapter of the California Association of Landscape Contractors (CLCA SFV) recently held its annual awards night to recognize the winners of the 2025 Beautifications Awards, recognizing excellence in landscape maintenance, installation, renovation, water features, and night lighting. Winners came from across the Los Angeles, Orange County, and Santa Barbara region, showcasing the best of the best in landscaping. Here are the winners of the CLCA San Fernando Valley's 2025 Beautification Awards program:

Stuart Sperber Memorial Sweepstakes: The award to best overall project sponsored by Tadd & Rochelle Sperber Russikoff went to Oakridge Landscape, Inc. from Valencia for Solana, a multi-family residential complex. This project also received the **Commercial Living Facilities** award.

F. H. Arklin Memorial: Mariposa Landscapes, Inc. from Irwindale was presented this award recognizing a "commercial project that best exhibits excellence in craftsmanship" for their work at EF Academy in Pasadena.

President's Choice: The Delresto Estate was the residential project that received this award for excellence in craftsmanship shown by Groundcare Landscape from Burbank. This project was also presented first place in the **Large Residential Maintenance** category.

Turf Green Award: Mariposa Landscapes, Inc. received this award for their work at the Westport Development in the City of Oxnard, featuring natural turf that exhibited the best appearance and healthy green color. This project was also presented the **Public Works Maintenance** award.

Colorscape Award: The best use of color in the overall landscape went to Noah's Ark Landscaping from Los Angeles for the Hartland DWP Rebate project that was designed by Passiflora gardens and also received the **Small Residential** award.

Large Residential: Gregory Davis & Associates of Culver City received this award for Spanish-style residence David Avenue in Los Angeles that also received the **Renovation** award.

Design/Build: Oakridge Landscape, Inc. received a second award for their work at Pioneer Park Way in Santa Clarita.

Renovation: While first place went to Gregory Davis & Associates, Gothic Landscape — which services California, Nevada, and Arizona — was presented with Achievement status for the School Day Café project in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Medium Commercial Maintenance: First place went to Cadre Landscape from Inglewood for City National Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles. Cadre Landscape also received the Achievement recognition for Manulife Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles.

Large Commercial Maintenance: Stay Green, Inc., a full-service landscaping company with locations across Southern California, was given first place for Keck Medical Center of USC in Los Angeles. Cadre Landcape received another Achievement award, this time for their work at Sony Pictures in Culver City.

Large Residential Maintenance: While first place went to Groundcare Landscape for the Delresto Estate, the achievement award went to Gothic Landscape for Oak Meadow Residence.

Small HOA Maintenance: Gothic Landscape was also recognized for their work at Deerlake Ranch Club House in Chatsworth.

Medium HOA Maintenance: Stay Green, Inc. took home both the first place and achievement awards in this category for a Renaissance Maintenance Corporation property and Los Arbolitos Apartments, respectively.

Large HOA Maintenance: Gothic Landscape received first place for their work at Bridgeport Lake and Stay Green, Inc. was recognized with an achievement award for their work at The Ranch at Fair Oaks, both projects located in Santa Clarita.

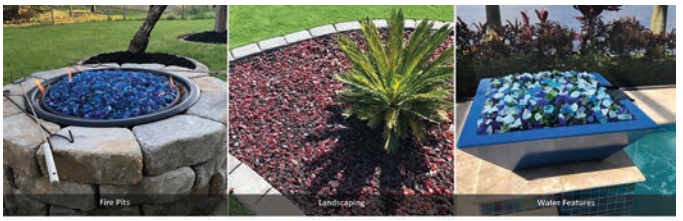
Tree Care: Oakridge Landscape, Inc. took home this award for Stonegate HOA in Irvine.

All awards were sponsored, featuring names like CLCA Insurance Solutions (5 awards), Ewing Outdoor Supply (2), Oso Electric Equipment LLC (2), Site One Landscape Supply (2), The Toro Company (2), the CLCA Channel Islands Chapter (1), Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery (1), El Dorado Communications (1), Devil Enterprise Fleet Management (1), Green Industry Co-op (1), Green Thumb Wholesale Nursery (1), Milwaukee Tool (1), Mountain Wholesale Nursery (1), MSM Landscape Services, Inc. (1), Southland Sod (1), and Vineland Growers Nursery (1).

To read more about the winning projects, go to the CLCA San Francisco Valley Chapter's website: clcasfv.org/awards-1 LCMP



Cadre Landscape took home many awards, including an Achievement Award in the Large Commercial Maintenance category for their contract with Sony Pictures in Culver City.



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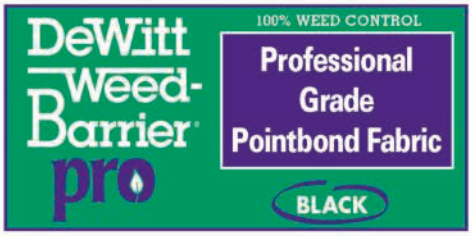
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