

To

Date

Tuesday August 25, 2009

*2 pages from Mario Lanthier*



The “2009 Farwest Show” was held in Portland August 20 to 22.

This meeting is held every year. Technical seminars are held every morning. Seminars target nurseries, garden centers and landscape professionals. The trade show has 1200 exhibitors, of which 60% are wholesale nurseries.

Attendance appeared to be down again this year but numbers were not released. All industry trade shows in the United States report a 20 to 30% drop in attendance this year.

For more information, visit <http://www.farwestshow.com/>.

### ***The trendy word: Sustainability***

The official definition, 1987 UN “World Commission of Economic Development”:  
”Meeting the needs of today without compromising the resources of future generations”.

- The magazine “American Nurseryman”, published by the American Nursery Association, devoted its August issue to “Marketing Sustainability” and “Green cities”.
- The magazine “Digger”, published by the Oregon Association of Nurseries, called the June edition “The Green Issue”, or ways that nurseries can adopt sustainable practices.
- Examples: composting to manage plant waste and using biological control.

“Successful” biocontrol programs in Oregon nurseries:

- releasing Hypoaspis mites against fungus gnats in greenhouse production /
- releasing predator mites for spider mite control in outdoor shrub production /
- releasing nematodes against root weevils in container production.

## **SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS**

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*Is there a shift in society? Is there a greater demand for sustainable practices?*

- Landscaping is not easy. Sustainable landscaping is not easier but is more rewarding.
- Traditional landscaping lasted 400 generations. It was labour-intensive, for the rich. Modern landscaping has been around 4 generations. It is high input, for middle class. Sustainable landscaping is newer. It is designed as low-input for products and labour.

*The 8-fold path to sustainable landscape practices.*

- # 1) Respect what is there. For example, design by retaining plants already on-site.
- # 2) Reduce input. For example, prune sparingly, mulch prunings to use on-site.
- # 3) Nurture the soil. Store topsoil during construction. Amend the soil with compost.
- # 4) Protect the air and water. Reduce lawn areas. Mulch to conserve water. Use IPM.
- # 5) Conserve water. Use drought tolerant plants. Minimize “thirsty” flower beds.
- # 6) Conserve energy. Plant trees to give shade. Reduce parking islands heat.
- # 7) Create human habitats. Vegetable gardens in backyards. Entice people outdoors.
- # 8) Create wildlife habitats. Use native plants. Diversify the planting selection.

*An example: sustainable stormwater management.*

- Historically, landscape beds were designed to drain rainwater to catch basins. This requires public investment in infrastructure for piping then treating the water.
- With newer designs, landscape beds can absorb and filter water with flow-through planters / vegetative swells / eco-roofs / rain gardens / porous pavement.

*Regulatory drivers and certification programs.*

The “**Sustainable Sites Initiative**” was developed by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the US Botanical Garden and Lady Bird Johnson Center.

A document published in 2008 provides “national guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance practices”.

Available at <http://www.sustainablesites.org/>.

The “**LEED program**” (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) was developed by the US Green Building Council to reduce energy use and improve the environmental profile of buildings. Credits are given for IPM in structural pest control and landscape beds that can absorb 1 inch of rainwater per 24-hour period. See <http://www.usgbc.org/>. A similar program in Canada, see [www.cagbc.org](http://www.cagbc.org/).