

Excitement in the PNW, The Landscape Show & More





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Nursery & LANDSCAPE INSIDER

News and Commentary for the landscape and nursery market

COMING UP THIS WEEK:

The Landscape Show Recap
Oregon Nursery Field Day
AmericanHort Nursery Tour
Ball Acquires Tradewinds
Hibiscus

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Recapping The Landscape Show

I spent last week in Orlando, Florida, attending The Landscape Show, the premier green industry trade show for the landscape industry. The show is hosted by the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) and brings in people from all over the south—and even some from further away. This year's theme was "Growing Through Connections" and what a fitting theme that was. I made so many new connections at the show, visiting with growers I had not had a chance to talk with in quite a while and meeting many new people. Everyone was so eager to connect, it was refreshing.





The new expansions to the Knowledge College were a hit. I had a chance to sit in on a few talks, and picked up quite a bit of new information. I heard buzz on the floor about the new Irrigation track. Plus, I had a chance to send my students there to offload their teaching to someone else for a short while!

I also had an exciting orientation to a new program. I was recently selected to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program with the FNGLA, a relatively new program dedicated to providing leadership training and unique opportunities to Florida's green industry members to help build the future foundation of the industry. I have participated in a few different leadership programs in my time, both through my previous position at LSU and with my national academic society, ASHS, among others, so I had a rough idea what this program might be like. What a surprise, from our first meeting, the potential was on display. Most leadership programs are a few online modules and some open discussion—to be honest I find many to be quite performative. However, this one sounds fun and engaging. I fully expect to get a lot out of this program, and this was just day 1!

If you haven't had a chance, I highly recommend checking it out next year. It's a great time, with great people, and the best place with dedicated support for the landscape industry. I also have to say, that this is one of the most "attractive" shows ever. Now, I don't want to pick favorites, but since the show is dedicated to the landscapers, the nurseries are on full display. The sheer volume of plant materials lining well-crafted booths was unbelievable. Plus, it's Florida, so you get a nice mixture of classic plant materials and unique, tropical and sub-tropical material that you wouldn't find anywhere else. Some growers go all out and bring massive 30 ft.+ trees for displays. If that isn't dedication, I don't know what is.



Oregon Nursery Production Field Day

Every August, much of the nursery industry shifts focus to the Pacific Northwest, as Farwest takes the stage. As the show wraps up for another year, the national industry shifts our focus away from Oregon. Not this year. There are two more exciting opportunities for the Nursery and Landscape industry coming to Oregon over the next few weeks.

First up, an exciting Oregon Nursery Production Field Day, being held at Robinson Nursery in McMinnville, Oregon, on September 22. This industry-university collaboration is hosted by Robinson Nursery and Oregon State University, an exciting new development organized to provide growers with the most direct support possible.

The event, which is sponsored by Profile Products, runs from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., kicking off with lunch! After you get a nice meal just for showing up, you will be able to check out demonstrations including LiDAR-guided intelligent sprayers, containers and substrates, and check out all the trials at Robinson Nursery. A killer lineup of speakers will be followed by a fertilizer dispenser relay race to let participants compete for a prize.

The event is free to attend, but they do ask that you [RSVP ahead of time](#).



Demonstrations and Viewing Plots

Tyler Hoskins: Head of R&D at Robinson Nursery



Easy Does It

Hybrid Hibiscus Trees and Other Low Stress Nursery Crops for Growers and Consumers

Dr. Ryan Contreras: Professor of Horticulture at Oregon State University



Nursery Production Recent Research

Water, Automation, and Labor Efficiency

Dr. Lloyd L. Nackley: Associate Professor, Nursery Production at Oregon State University



Better Sucker Control in Nursery Crops

Dr. Marcelo Moretti: Associate Professor and Extension Weed Science Specialist at Oregon State University.



Questions & Answers on Growing Media, Fertility, and Water Management

Dr. Jim Owen: Technical Lead at Profile Products

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AmericanHort Nursery Tour

If you're coming to town for the Oregon Nursery Field Day, you might as well stick around for a week (go take a hike in the mountains or maybe hop on a kayak), because September 29-30, the AmericanHort Nursery Tour is hitting the Willamette Valley. This tour takes attendees on an

exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour of some of the most innovative nurseries in the business. You will spend two full days deep in the heart of the Willamette Valley, one of the nation's well-renowned nursery areas.

The tour is organized to blend multi-generational family operations with high-tech automation to explore progressive plant development. You have a front row seat to see how robotics are fitting in the nursery industry. You will walk away with some new ideas and insights. The first day kicks off with a stop at Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas, before heading to Bountiful Farms, J. Frank Schmidt & Son, Hans Nelson & Sons and Iseli Nursery. The second day includes stops at Microplant Nurseries, Oregon Perennial Company, Robinson Nursery, Bailey Nursery and Monrovia.

Registration is limited to maximize learning and ensure hands-on activities are possible. So, be sure to sign up soon. Check out the event [HERE](#).

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Ball Acquires Tradewinds Hibiscus

Ball Horticultural Company has announced an expansion of its tropical plant lineup through acquisition of the Tradewinds Hibiscus line from Aris Horticulture, a leading producer and developer of ornamental plants. This transfer includes all commercial varieties, breeding stock, future introductions, and the Tradewinds trademark, which will further strengthen Ball FloraPlant's world-class genetics assortment and build innovation in the tropical category. "Expanding our tropical portfolio helps Ball meet the needs of the evolving market. We welcome these exciting additions to the Ball family," says Allan Davidson, President of Ball Horticultural Company. "This transition combines industry-leading genetics, production expertise, and customer support to deliver even greater value to our customers and partners."

That's not all, Ball Seed will acquire the commercial business responsibilities for Aris' tropical liner, prefinished and finished programs. This includes Hibiscus, Mandevilla and Tropical Fern classes, along with select Igloo Mums and Green Leaf Plants Florida perennials (Transferred Products). Aris will continue to produce and finish the Transferred Products but will turn over all direct sales and distribution to Ball Seed. The Transferred Products will also have availability and be sold through Star Roses and Plants.

"Ball has a compelling vision for leveraging Tradewinds and expanding its tropical plants portfolio, and Aris has the production and growing experience to make it happen," says Scott Schaefer, President & CEO of Aris Horticulture Inc. "This strategic partnership allows each company to focus on core strengths and ensures the continuing supply of the premium products our customers have come to rely on." Aris continued to accept orders through Aug. 17 and will operate as a separate, independent company producing and marketing Keepsake Plants and contract production services.





Think big,

Jeb Fields

Editor-at-Large

Nursery & Landscape Insider

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