

# Landscaping and Yard Maintenance



With spring in the air, our thoughts turn to outside activities, and one of those for many folks is sprucing up their homes and yards. Landscaping and yard maintenance takes center stage in this issue and we present some hints, suggestions, and Chamber members who can help you achieve your outdoor goals.

Landscaping refers to any activity that modifies the visible features of an area of land. It is both science and art, and requires good observation and design skills. A good landscaper understands the elements of nature and construction, and blends them accordingly.

Landscape design is an independent profession and a design and art tradition, practiced by landscape designers, combining nature and culture. In contemporary practice, landscape design bridges between landscape architecture and garden design. One of the most significant organizations devoted to landscaping was the Texas Association of Landscape Contractors (TALC). This group was founded by a group of concerned Dallas contractors in 1964. The goals of the association were to create a team of professionals to deal with the problems and promotion of the landscape industry. In 1999 TALC merged with the Texas Association of Nurserymen to form the Texas Nursery & Landscape Association.

Yard Maintenance usually relates to growing and maintaining a lawn. There are thousands of varieties of grasses and grass like plants for lawns, each adapted to specific conditions of precipitation and irrigation, seasonal temperatures, and sun/shade tolerances. Plant hybridizers and botanists are constantly creating and finding improved varieties of the basic species and new ones, often more economical and environmentally sustainable by needing less water, fertilizer, pest and disease treatments, and

maintenance. The three basic categories are 'cool season grasses,' 'warm season grasses,' and 'grass alternatives.' In the Houston area, St. Augustine is the most popular grass.

Maintaining a lawn requires only occasional cutting with a suitable machine and regular upkeep. Summer lawn care requires raising the lawn mower for cool season grass, and lowering it for warm season lawns. Lawns will require longer and more frequent watering, best done in early morning to encourage a stronger root system. This is also the time to apply an all-purpose fertilizer. During the hot summer months, lawns may be susceptible to fungus disease. It's advisable to take a sod sample to a local landscape or lawn care expert for testing and treating the yard, if necessary.

Landscaping, exceptional lawn maintenance and trees can pay handsome dividends especially when a home is being sold. Not only can they add value, but they can also give owners a sense of self-satisfaction in their neighborhood. Many subdivisions encourage excellent yard maintenance and can even cite the outstanding ones as "yard of the month."

Another vital component of yard maintenance applies to the trees you may have on your property. Landscapers and tree specialists can assist in the selection of what types of trees to plant. Tree maintenance and upkeep represent a specialized area of expertise and professionalism is required here. Timely pruning and tree trimming can keep your trees healthy and beautiful, which is important because home values are enhanced by the addition of healthy trees.

The chamber is proud to number among its members several outstanding companies that provide landscaping and yard maintenance products and services. In the following section, we present them with contact information:

### Embark Tree & Landscape Services

Embark's Website Named Winner of the "2010 TCIA Professional Communications Award" Embark Tree & Landscape Services was very proud to be named Winner of the coveted "2010 TCIA Professional Communications Award" by the Tree Care Industry Association. Their new website is designed to raise understanding of the Arbor industry as well as inspire arbor stewardship with their clients. This initiative is using state-of-the-art, interactive Web technologies to create an online community where visitors can deepen their knowledge of the Arbor Industry and how it is tied to their individual community. With almost 60 entries, TCIA was impressed with Embark's website's dedication to Arbor Education and overall client ease of use. **Amy Tetreault**, Marketing and PR Coordinator of TCIA, explains "Embark Services website features much more information than the average tree care company's website. This website is a valuable resource for consumers looking for tree care information." Congratulations **Ed Schultheis**, Chamber representative.

### C & D Hardware

Lawn care is in the bag at C & D Hardware. It is easy to be overwhelmed by today's vast selection of lawn care products. The helpful staff at C & D Hardware can offer advice and suggestions on products specifically selected for this area. They stock all the familiar lawn care names as well as a new line of organic products. Come by and let their knowledgeable staff help you "Go Green, Get Green and Save Green." C & D Hardware is located at 314 East 11th street, and you can get more information from **Jim Stratton** by calling 713-861-3551 or to [www.CandDhardware.com](http://www.CandDhardware.com).

### Lawn Management Company, Inc.

LMC was incorporated as a landscape management contractor in April of 1980. LMC provides professional landscape management through maintenance, installation, and irrigation services. The company has grown steadily over the years, currently servicing over 650 commercial accounts. Their professional management team includes


Certified Landscape Professionals, four Texas Certified Landscape Technicians, Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicators, a Certified Turfgrass Professional, three Texas Master Gardeners, Licensed Irrigators and a Certified Arborist. LMC is one of the most progressive landscape maintenance firms in the greater Houston area, and prides themselves on providing dependable, high quality service with attention always focused on their customers. To learn more, call **Bill Cox** at 713-688-2534 or go online to [www.LMCinc.biz](http://www.LMCinc.biz).

### Moss Landscaping

Moss Landscaping is a full-service landscaping company, specializing in landscape design, masonry, concrete work, outdoor structures, drainage, hydro jetting, irrigation, plant installation, lighting and maintenance programs. With over 20 years experience, **Gary Moss** leads a team of over 150 landscaping professionals, foremen and support staff. He blends the talents of a variety of landscape architects and related professional consultants, helping customers determine the size and scope of their projects. Moss Landscaping is located at 939 West 26th Street and more information can be obtained at [www.mosslandscaping.com](http://www.mosslandscaping.com).

*Extracted from website*

### The Backyard Gardener in Houston, Texas

The Backyard Gardener in Houston, Texas is an organic landscaping organization. The company is located physically at 5117 North Main Street and the telephone number is 713-880-8004. Their Website, [www.backyardgardenerhouston.com](http://www.backyardgardenerhouston.com) is filled with a wealth of information including valuable PDF's, links and videos plus photos demonstrating landscaping. 

*Extracted from website*

