

The background is a Halloween-themed scene. In the foreground, several glowing jack-o'-lanterns are scattered on a sandy surface. In the mid-ground, a large, white, ethereal ghostly figure is visible, along with a group of black bats flying in the sky. The background features palm trees and a bright, hazy sky. The title 'I-Plants Magazine' is prominently displayed in the upper center.

I-Plants Magazine

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Special Handling





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2024

We welcome your nominations.

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their service to the plantscape community? The Plantscape Hall of Fame honors plantscapers and allied trade persons who have been instrumental in the development of plantscaping.

**Click [HERE](#) to nominate someone today
until November 6th, 2023!**



Editor's Letter

Happy Halloween everyone! I just want to say a big THANK YOU to all the companies and individuals that have supported the International Plantscape Awards for this upcoming event. I am sure we will have broken all records associated with this event once all is said and done.

If any of you have someone in mind that should be considered for this year's Hall of Fame class please let us know by nominating them. The link can be found on the previous page.

I am re-opening the awards submission portal from Dec 1st to Dec 7th for those of you that would still like to enter an entry, particularly those recent holiday decor installs! The entry deadline is a small window and there will be no extensions past Dec 7th so please plan accordingly.

I am very happy to formally announce that the 3rd annual International Plantscape Awards and Plantscape Hall of Fame will be held in partnership with TPIE, FNGLA and NHF on Thursday January 18th, 2024, will be the date for an in person event to present the Hall of Fame class of 2024 and the award winners their awards.

This issue brings back Carolyn Goodin and her awesome and informative articles. This issue's article on "Acclimatized Plants Require Special Handling" is a great read to get a deeper understanding on this topic which is critical to understand for interior landscapers.

Have a great November and enjoy the 2023 FALLIDAY issue!

Elliott Bennett





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SAMHAIN

Samhain: The History of Halloween

Article Credit: HISTORY

Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced “sow-win”) is a pagan religious festival originating from an ancient Celtic spiritual tradition. It is usually celebrated from October 31 to November 1 to welcome in the harvest and usher in “the dark half of the year.” Celebrants believe that the barriers between the physical world and the spirit world break down during Samhain, allowing more interaction between humans and denizens of the Otherworld.

Ancient Samhain

Ancient Celts marked Samhain as the most significant of the four quarterly fire festivals, taking place at the midpoint between the fall equinox and the winter solstice. During this time of year, hearth fires in family homes were left to burn out while the harvest was gathered.

After the harvest work was complete, celebrants joined with Druid priests to light a community

fire using a wheel that would cause friction and spark flames. The wheel was considered a representation of the sun and used along with prayers. Cattle were sacrificed, and participants took a flame from the communal bonfire back to their home to relight the hearth.

Early texts present Samhain as a mandatory celebration lasting three days and three nights where the community was required to show

themselves to local kings or chieftains. Failure to participate was believed to result in punishment from the gods, usually illness or death.

There was also a military aspect to Samhain in Ireland, with holiday thrones prepared for commanders of soldiers.

Anyone who committed a crime or used their weapons during the celebration faced a death sentence.

Some documents mention six days of drinking alcohol to excess, typically mead or beer, along with gluttonous feasts.

Samhain Monsters

Because the Celts believed that the barrier between worlds was breachable during Samhain, they prepared offerings that were left outside villages and fields for fairies, or Sidhs.

It was expected that ancestors might cross over during this time as well, and Celts would dress as animals and monsters so that fairies were not tempted to kidnap them.

Some specific monsters were associated with the mythology surrounding Samhain, including a shape-shifting creature called a Pukah that receives harvest offerings from the field. The Lady Gwyn is a headless woman dressed in white who chases night wanderers and was accompanied by a black pig.

The Dullahan sometimes appeared as impish creatures, sometimes headless men on horses who carried their heads. Riding flame-eyed horses, their appearance was a death omen to

anyone who encountered them.

A group of hunters known as Sluagh or Faery Host might also haunt Samhain and kidnap people. Similar are the Sluagh, who would come from the west to enter houses and steal souls.

Myths of Samhain

One of the most popular Samhain stories told during the festival was of “The Second Battle of Mag Tuired,” which portrays the final conflict between the Celtic pantheon known as the Tuatha de Danann and evil oppressors known as the Fomor. The myths state that the battle unfolded over the period of Samhain.

One of the most famous Samhain-related stories is “The Adventures of Nera,” in which the hero Nera encounters a corpse and fairies, and enters into the Otherworld.

Samhain figured into the adventures of mythological Celtic hero Fionn mac Cumhaill when he faced the fire-breathing underworld dweller Aillen, who would burn down the Hall of Tara every Samhain.



Samhain also figures into another Fionn mac Cumhaill legend, where the hero is sent to the Land Beneath the Wave. As well as taking place on Samhain, it features descriptions of the hero's holiday gatherings.

Samhain in the Middle Ages

As the Middle Ages progressed, so did the celebrations of the fire festivals. Bonfires known as Samghnagans, which were more personal Samhain fires nearer the farms, became a tradition, purportedly to protect families from fairies and witches.

Carved turnips called Jack-o-lanterns began to appear, attached by strings to sticks and embedded with coal. Later Irish tradition switched to pumpkins.

In Wales, men tossed burning wood at each other in violent games and set off fireworks. In Northern England, men paraded with noisemakers.

Dumb Supper

The tradition of “dumb supper” began during this time, in which food was consumed by celebrants but only after inviting ancestors to join in, giving the families a chance to interact with the spirits until they left following dinner.







Children would play games to entertain the dead, while adults would update the dead on the past year's news. That night, doors and windows might be left open for the dead to come in and eat cakes that had been left for them.

Christian Samhain

As Christianity gained a foothold in pagan communities, church leaders attempted to reframe Samhain as a Christian celebration.

The first attempt was by Pope Boniface in the 5th century. He moved the celebration to May 13 and specified it as a day celebrating saints and martyrs. The fire festivals of October and November, however, did not end with this decree.

In the 9th century, Pope Gregory moved the celebration back to the time of the fire festivals,

but declared it All Saints' Day, on November 1. All Souls' Day would follow on November 2.

Samhain Merges With Halloween

Neither new holiday did away with the pagan aspects of the celebration. October 31 became known as All Hallows Eve, or Halloween, and contained much of the traditional pagan practices before being adopted in 19th-century America through Irish immigrants bringing their traditions across the ocean.

Trick-or-treating is said to have been derived from ancient Irish and Scottish practices in the nights leading up to Samhain. In Ireland, mumming was the practice of putting on costumes, going door-to-door and singing songs to the dead. Cakes were given as payment.

Halloween pranks also have a tradition in Samhain, though in the ancient celebration, tricks were typically blamed on fairies.

Wicca and Samhain

A broad revival of Samhain resembling its traditional pagan form began in the 1980s with the growing popularity of Wicca.

Wicca celebration of Samhain takes on many forms, from the traditional fire ceremonies to celebrations that embrace many aspects of modern Halloween, as well as activities related to honoring nature or ancestors.

Wiccans look at Samhain as the passing of the year and incorporate common Wiccan traditions into the celebration.

In the Druid tradition, Samhain celebrates the dead with a festival on October 31 and usually features a bonfire and communion with the dead. American pagans often hold music and dance celebrations called Witches' Balls in proximity to Samhain.

Celtic Reconstructionists

Pagans who embrace Celtic traditions with the intent of reintroducing them faithfully into modern paganism are called Celtic Reconstructionists.

In this tradition, Samhain is called Oiche Shamhna and celebrates the mating between Tuatha de Danaan gods Dagda and River Unis.

Celtic Reconstructionists celebrate by placing juniper decorations around their homes and creating an altar for the dead where a feast is held in honor of deceased loved ones.

Sources

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We are excited to announce that we will be hosting the 3rd annual **International Plantscape Awards Gala** event in support of the National Horticulture Foundation (NHF).

The International Plantscape Awards and Plantscape Hall of Fame in-person event will be held again in partnership with TPIE, FNGLA and NHF on **Thursday January 18th, 2024** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida for a gala night extravaganza that includes a four course meal and the full awards program presentation. All proceeds raised from this event will be designated to NHF to create long term sustainability for the Interiorscape Industry.

The International Plantscape Awards recognizes outstanding achievements in interior plantscape design, installation, creativity, renovation, and innovation. These awards celebrate the strides of interior plantscapers to connect people with plants in remarkable ways.

Entries are judged on their own merit rather than against each other. Award winners earn a designation of gold or platinum based on points scored from information, photos and videos provided. Certain submissions may be awarded the coveted Diamond and Emerald judges' awards for the best overall entries.

We thank you in advance for your support in this great initiative.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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ABOUT THE GALA

EVENT DATE:

Thursday, January 18, 2024

EVENT VENUE:

Fort Lauderdale Convention Centre, Palm Room (A & B)

EVENT TIME:

5:00 p.m. - Pre-Reception in Palm Room Lobby / 6:00 p.m. - Gala Doors Open

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The National Horticulture Foundation (NHF) embraces the opportunity to seek out and provide support to projects relevant to the nursery and landscape industry along with addressing issues related to a diverse and changing horticulture industry. Led by our vibrant network of business professionals, the Foundation is dedicated to seeing the industry thrive and survive well into the future.

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- Partial tax deduction.



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- One full page inside cover advertisement in I-Plants Magazine Awards special edition.
- Corporate logo recognition on event website.
- Partial tax deduction.
- Plus, unlocking 5 additional entries for the 2024 International Plantscape Awards.



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Beyond the Yuck Factor: Cities Turn to 'Extreme' Water Recycling

By Jim Robbins



San Francisco is at the forefront of a movement to recycle wastewater from commercial buildings, homes, and neighborhoods and use it for toilets and landscaping.

This decentralized approach, proponents say, will drive down demand in an era of increasing water scarcity. In downtown San Francisco, in a cavernous garage that was once a Honda dealership, a gleaming white-and-blue appliance about the size

of a commercial refrigerator is being prepared for transport to a hotel in Los Angeles.

There, this unit, called a OneWater System, will be installed in the basement, where its collection of pipes will take in much of the hotel's graywater — from sinks, showers, and laundry. The system will clean the water with membrane filtration, ultraviolet light, and chlorine, and then send it back upstairs to be used again for nonpotable uses. And again. And again.

“There is no reason to only use water once,” said Peter Fiske, the executive director of the National Alliance for Water Innovation, a division of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, in Berkeley. Just as natural systems use and reuse water repeatedly in a cycle driven by the sun, he said, “we now have technologies to enable us to process and reuse water over and over, at the scale of a city, a campus, and even an individual home.”

While centralized water reuse for nonpotable purposes has been around for decades, a trend called the “extreme decentralization of water and wastewater” — also known as “distributed water systems,” or “on-site” or “premise” recycling — is now emerging as a leading strategy in the effort to make water use more sustainable.

In 2015, San Francisco required all new buildings of more than 100,000 square feet to have on-site recycling systems. The concept is to equip new commercial and residential buildings as well as districts, such as neighborhoods and universities, with on-site recycling plants that will make water for nonpotable use cheaper than buying potable water from a centralized source. By driving down demand for potable water, which is costly to filter, treat, and distribute, the units will help manage water more efficiently. It is, many experts believe, the future of water. Eventually

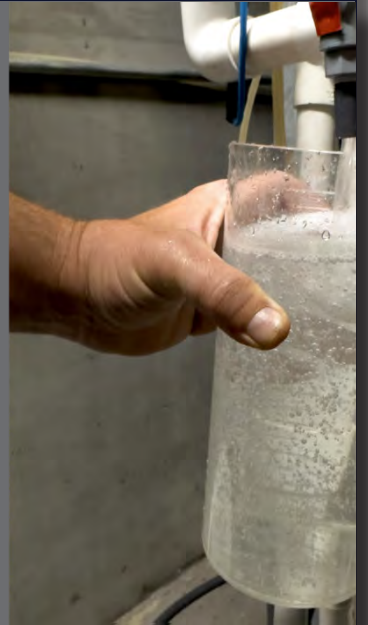
it's hoped that buildings will be completely self-sufficient, or "water neutral," using the same water over and over, potable and nonpotable, in a closed loop.

It's not just a pipe dream. Proof of concept is unfolding in San Francisco, which in 2015 required all new buildings of more than 100,000 square feet to have on-site recycling systems. So far, six blackwater and 25 graywater systems are using the technology, and many others are in the works. (Blackwater comes from toilets, dishwashers, and kitchen sinks; graywater comes from washing machines, showers, and bathtubs.) The headquarters of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has a blackwater system, called the Living Machine, that treats its wastewater in engineered wetlands built into the sidewalks around the building, then uses it to flush low-flow toilets and urinals. The process reduces the building's imported potable supply by 40 percent.

Recycling graywater alone can save substantial amounts of water. Using it to flush toilets and wash clothes reduces demand for new water by about 40 percent. Using recycled water for showers would eliminate another 20 percent of water demand, though the safety of that practice is being researched and is not yet permitted in San Francisco.

To demonstrate its technology, Epic Cleantec, a water recycling company, has even brewed a beer called Epic OneWater Brew with





purified graywater from a 40-story San Francisco apartment building.

With the meagrdrought and water crisis on the Colorado, the Rio Grande, and other Western rivers, “extreme decentralization” is making its way to other places in the American West, including Colorado, Texas, and Washington State. And decentralized projects are ongoing in Japan, India, and Australia. There are serious pressures on fresh water supplies around the world, with climate change exacerbating shortages. A recent study found that more than half the world’s lakes have lost significant amounts of water over the last 30 years. By 2050, the UN estimates that 5 billion people could be subjected to water shortages.

“This is the future of water for everybody,” Newsha Ajami, director of Urban Water Policy at Stanford’s Water in the West program, said of decentralized water systems and recycling. “It’s a slow-moving process, but at the end of the day — considering all the scarcity — a lot of communities are going to pick this up as a way of having economic development while having water security.”

A fully circular system, in which water is reused on-site for both potable and nonpotable uses, is at least five years away. San Francisco’s recycling systems are not water neutral. The largest building with an on-site system is the Salesforce Tower, a 61-story office tower that opened in 2018 and is the tallest building in San Francisco. Built by the Australian company Aquacell,

the system cleans 30,000 gallons of sewage, sink, shower, and other wastewater each day and uses it for irrigation and toilet flushing, saving an estimated 7.8 million gallons of water a year. That’s the equivalent of the annual use of 16,000 San Franciscans, the company says. Outside water is still needed for potable uses. (In New York, the Domino Sugar Refinery redevelopment project, currently under construction on the Brooklyn waterfront, will recycle 400,000 gallons of blackwater a day.)

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the water provider, estimates that there are a total of 48 reuse systems in operation and 29 more projects being planned in the city. By 2040, the agency says, its Onsite Water Reuse program will save 1.3 million gallons of potable water each day.

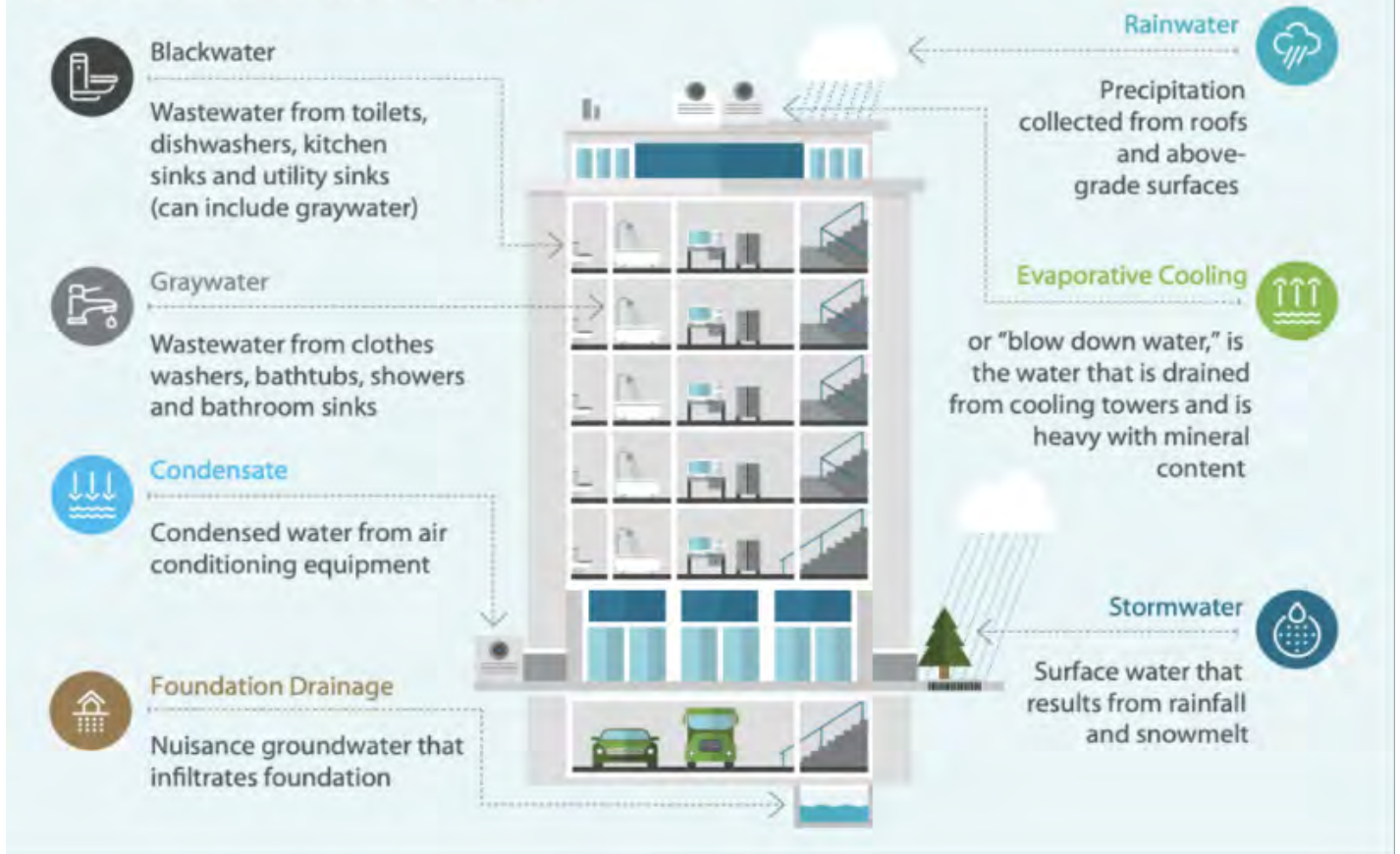
The technology for these buildings to capture and treat all their water to potable standards already exists. But the safety of direct reuse of recycled wastewater is still being studied, and U.S. regulations so far do not allow that.

A fully circular system, in which water is reused on-site for both potable and nonpotable uses, is at least five to 10 years away in this country, experts say.

Centralized recycled water systems, by contrast, have been used for decades, though they too have rapidly grown as a solution to water shortages. Orange County, California, for example, is home to the world’s largest water recycling facility. It cleans 130 million gallons of blackwater a day in a process called indirect potable reuse.

Highly treated wastewater, which would normally have been discharged into the ocean, is put through an advanced three-step purification process that includes micro-filtration, reverse osmosis, and disinfection with ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide. The output is injected into nearby

ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES



groundwater, to be pumped up and treated to drinking-water standards by local utilities. In water-short Singapore, the massive Changi Water Reclamation Plant cleans and purifies 237 million gallons of wastewater a day to potable standards.

But the new reuse paradigm fundamentally rethinks water systems, localizing them in much the same way that households and districts with rooftop and community solar have transformed energy systems away from centralized power plants.

New buildings and neighborhoods, said Fiske, of the National Alliance for Water Innovation, may someday no longer need to hook up to sewer lines and water supplies. People will

be able to build without regard to connections to water infrastructure, simply by using the same water again and again in a virtually closed loop.

"The water that falls on the roof in most places in the world will be enough to sustain a home," predicts Fiske, citing a recent study that found that this approach could save at least 75 percent of water demand.

"The technology to do this has been around for a long time. What has prevented [its] adoption has been regulatory hurdles."

Premise recycling not only saves water, it can also save the cost of pumping water over long distances and the costs associated with digging up streets for replacement and installation of pipelines.

“Water is heavy,” said Fiske, “And we live on a planet with gravity. So use water where you live over and over again.”

While in some situations decentralized systems are expected to save money by reducing the energy needed to pump water, in others situations they could require more electricity to pump water through a building.

The increased prevalence of water recycling will allow water to be cleaned to varying standards — or different “flavors” — according to its intended use, a concept called “fit for purpose.” Water to flush toilets, for example, doesn’t need to be cleaned as thoroughly as drinking water.

The recycling systems being built in San Francisco are widely considered a success, and representatives from water-stressed cities around the world have come here to study the approach.

Epic Cleantec has designed a system that will provide 30,000 gallons a day for the Park Habitat office building, under construction in San Jose. Its blackwater system will be used to irrigate a living green wall on the tower’s 20-story exterior.

The system collects water from rain, cooling towers, showers, toilets, and sinks, then circulates it through a multistep treatment process in the basement. The solids are separated, sterilized, and turned into a soil

amendment.

“San Francisco has written the playbook and de-risked the whole process” by smoothing the regulations needed to build these systems, said Aaron Tartakovsky, who founded Epic Cleantec with his father, Igor, and is its CEO. “The technology to do this has been around for a long time. What has prevented the adoption of the technology has been regulatory hurdles. Without any established framework there was no way to get this done. What cities and states are doing is coming up with a clear playbook for how these systems can be operated safely and efficiently.”

Tartakovsky said the systems Epic Cleantec is building cost from a few hundred thousand to a few million dollars. The return on investment takes about seven years, he says. After that, there are considerable ongoing savings on water and sewer costs that vary from building to building.

Heather Cooley, director of research for the Pacific Institute in Oakland, an independent organization that studies water sustainability, and an author of a report on distributed systems and water resilience, believes premise systems are essential for California’s water future. “These on-site and distributed systems are an exciting addition to the range of tools to meet weather challenges,” she said. “They will help build resilience.” However, she added, “there’s no silver bullet. They’re not going to be applied in every building everywhere.”

What are the barriers to wider-scale residential changes [on water reuse]? The yuck factor, experts say.

It might seem counterintuitive that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission requires new buildings to reduce their consumption of city water: After all, the commission is in charge of selling that resource. But San Francisco has a

policy of densification in the urban core. As three- and four-story buildings are replaced with 10- and 12-story buildings, the cost of building new water infrastructure and finding new water sources is soaring.

Premise recycling is also taking place in what are known as districts. The University of California, Davis, has a blackwater system used for irrigation, and new neighborhoods are rising with their own closed-loop recycling systems. In San Diego, for example, developers are building a large district system to recycle blackwater at a shopping center that's being converted into an office campus.

"Neighborhood scale is the right scale for sustainability" for recycled water, said Claire Maxfield, director of the San Francisco office of Atelier Ten, a London-based engineering and design firm.

Maxfield led the sustainability team that helped design an 11-acre mixed-use district system for Mission Rock, a neighborhood now under construction next to the San Francisco Giants ballpark.

It will collect blackwater from a main sewer, filter it, then send it to all 17 of the neighborhood's buildings to be used for irrigation and toilet flushing.

"It works really well, and it works really cost effectively" at the neighborhood scale, said Maxfield. "It shares the cost, it's good for resilience and environmental justice. It's

better than telling everybody to solve this on their own."

A recent study found this approach to water recycling adds about 6 percent to the cost of a single home and 12 percent to the cost of a multifamily dwelling. But as the number of people using these systems increases, economies of scale come into play, making recycled water far less expensive than city water.

The Hydraloop, created in Holland, is one home-based technology on the market, a kind of "water washing" machine. It recycles up to 95 percent of a household's water, disinfecting shower and washing machine flows to irrigate lawns, flush toilets, and fill swimming pools. Overall water consumption declines by 25 to 45 percent. A company in Vancouver makes a product called RainStick, which recycles shower water over and over while you shower.

What are the barriers to even wider-scale residential changes? The yuck factor, experts say. "When we talk about reuse there's a lot of fear" among builders and architects, said Maxfield, though she believes they can be overcome.

That's why, she said, decentralization of water and waste systems appears to be destined to play a major role in a water-stressed world. "No one talked about carbon 20 years ago" in the design of buildings, Maxfield said. "And now everyone does. Water is going to have that moment."



Acclimatized Plants Require Special Handling

By Carolyn J.C. Goodin CLP-I Emeritus

During the slow acclimating process of adapting sun-grown plants, into shade plants, morphological changes in leaf structure occur. At the micro level we see this with the grana orientation.

At the macro level, new plant leaves grow thinner, with fewer layers in depth, but longer and wider, to compensate for loss of total mass. The spacing of leaves also changes. There are longer spaces between leaves, internodes are longer, and interior branches are fewer.

Thus, with an acclimatized Ficus tree, for example, most of the new foliage is found on the outer portions of the tree, not so much, on the interior branches. To help the plant along, in terms of its form, small interior branches are pruned away, leaving the main structural branches intact.

Outer branches are tipped to encourage more branching along the peripheries of the tree. The final product is a tree which looks full, with lots of

outer leaves. This also prevents massive leaf drop from the interior portions.

Palms and cane plants are different in the sense that new growth usually comes in whirls. Some palms put out new growth one frond at a time, but the growth periods are not as frequent. Thus, the space between fronds is wider. Each frond is longer and wider. In full sun the fronds are closer together, perhaps growing a new one at 2-month intervals. While acclimatized palms may grow a new frond every 4-6 months. To avoid the obvious difference between sun and shade grown leaves, growers will start the palms in full sun.

Once the desired height and girth of the trunk is reached, then they will go into greenhouse conditions. There they will remain until the desired number of shade-grown leaves has been attained. The sun grown leaves will eventually senesce, beginning with the oldest leaves first. The result is a palm with good girth and height with a complete set of shade acclimated fronds.

When purchasing expensive acclimatized plants, it is a good idea to hold those items at your facility for at least a month. This way the plants may be monitored for any troubles they may experience. The plants should be "hardened" such that they become used to the extreme light reduction. Water well, to leach out fertilizer residue. Make sure the plants are well rooted, and free of pests and disease. We select our candidates from the palms that grow under the canopy of larger trees. Kentia, Bamboo, Parlor, Areca and perhaps Ceiling Wax palms do best. Date palms, Chinese Fan palms and Fishtail palm are among those plants which are acclimatable.

In terms of Dracaena varieties, these are usually cut or air layered from large stock plants, usually planted

as leafless canes. Depending upon the goal we will find multi heighted canes in the pot or single multi-headed specimens. Once the plants have put out leaves, we find beautiful acclimatized specimens, ready for indoor use. Under nursery conditions, new leaves will grow perhaps every 2-3 months. However once placed on the job, new leaves may come in every 3-4 months, depending on light levels.

One may notice that even though acclimatized, new growth is longer, weepier, and spaced wider apart. Yes, the plants continue to acclimatize while on the job. To avoid the obvious differences in form, Technicians should plan to return these items to the nursery to allow new growth to form under nursery conditions. In this manner we avoid the obvious differences in the form of the leaves. This means when a new whirl of leaves begins to form, rotate the plant to the greenhouse, fertilize it and plan to return it once new growth has formed properly. To avoid inconsistency of form, allow only 2-3 whirls of new growth on the job.

Thus, plan to stock 2 plants for every plant on the job. By employing a rotation schedule such as suggested, a Dracaena may remain on the job for a year or more. This is a judgement call. It really depends on how the plants are performing. If they still look good then keep them in place. However, bear in mind that with more stretching, which occurs on the job, may require a severe cut back or a lengthy time and space consuming revitalization period.

Doing this will bring consistency of quality to the project. The goal is to maintain the nursery fresh appearance. Your project keeps its uniformity and the plants appear as fresh as the day they were installed. Your professional integrity remains intact,

your clients will be very satisfied with your work and your reputation will precede you. Some say it is too expensive or too much work to follow a rotation protocol.

However, if you sell yourself properly, explain what nursery fresh means most clients, if they care what their project looks like, will pay a little bit extra. The alternative is having a plantscape looking good for a few months and then, after some replacements having all stages of appearance, from nursery fresh all the way to tired, stretched and off-color plants strewn throughout. It is really a choice. Nothing ruins a plantscape more than inconsistency of appearances.

Regarding acclimatized herbaceous plants, we deal with the same issues. New growth is more stretched, color, not as rich and perhaps older leaves are dying off too rapidly. Very simply, when plants come from greenhouse conditions, even if very little acclimating is needed, we find that acclimatization is an on-going process.

During greenhouse acclimating, plants will jettison leaves they can no longer support. While on the job, new leaves invariably grow with forms that are different from nursery growth.

Not only are leaves changing morphology but also changes in root morphology occur as well. Metabolism slows down, such that water needs are less, fertilizer is not needed as much and all the rest that comes with a slowing metabolism.

It is very easy to over water and/or over fertilize an acclimatizing plant. It is a natural conclusion that acclimatizing plants will continue to slow down over time. Thus, when first placed on the job, some will require higher light and consume more water, initially. With time these requirements will



decrease.

Thus, a technician must carefully monitor newly installed plants to ascertain water needs, as metabolism slows. One will find that eventually the newly installed plants will tolerate lower lighting and less and less water. When the plant takes too long between irrigations, it is time to think about rotating the plant. In terms of fertilizer, depending on light conditions, fertilizer applications will be administered with weak solutions, and very infrequently.

We need to watch when the plants have growth spurts. Fertilizer is administered only during periods of active growth. Watch for new growth and fertilize before the new growth unfurls. Missing the window may cause new leaves not to color up properly. Observe, observe, and observe!

A major difficulty occurs with newly placed plants, that have been pumped with fertilizer in the nursery to achieve a full-grown plant in the shortest period. If a grower is worth his "salt," granular fertilizer will be replaced with weak solutions of liquid fertilizer long before these plants go to market.

The goal is to have a plant that is free of salt residues. Placing a plant with salt residues left in the mix is a recipe for disaster. How many of you have seen newly placed plants turn to mush in a matter of days? What the heck?

The answer is that once the plant comes out of ideal light, and frequent watering, any salt residue will kill tender roots in short speed. Therefore, when purchasing stock, always ask what kind of fertilizer was used, liquid or granular? Was the granular put into the growing mix or was it used as a topical supplement? Was the fertilizer a quick release or a slow release?

Is the granular a 1 month, 3 month, or 6 month formular? Lastly, when was this fertilizer last applied? "What a bother." You may say. However, if you do not get the answers, your plants are bound to fail. Therefore, avoid any plants with granular fertilizers.

Leach out salt resides from liquid fertilizers before the plants go to the job and install the plants right before they need water. This will avoid the waste of time and money with finding mushy plants dead from salt toxicity.

Hanging basket plants are particularly subject to this problem, especially if placed in low light. Lastly, remember, once a plant is subject to acclimation from sun to shade, it cannot be

taken from shade to full sun without a disaster. Remember the micro structure has changed to collect more light under low light conditions.

The plant will continue to collect more light. Light saturation point being much lower, the acclimatized baby will experience "sunburn." This is not a good look for a plant that cost plenty. Advise your clients not to move any of your plants without consulting you first!

Following these suggestions, will help keep your projects consistently looking nursery fresh. Money will be saved in the long run. By now you realize that acclimatized plants cost more. Thus, one important goal is to protect the investment. Your customers will appreciate the level of care you give their plants. You will protect your level of professionalism. Your reputation will precede you, and ultimately your business will grow. Until next time, stay well, keep learning and always, Stay Professional!

Smartee Plants:

A Professional's Guide to Indoor Plant Care

By Carolyn Goodin, CLP-I Emeritus

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Botanical Designs Acquires Foliage Design Systems in Orlando, Atlanta, Tampa Bay, and Jacksonville: A Blossoming Collaboration in the World of Green Spaces

Seattle, WA – September 14, 2023 – Botanical Designs, a nationwide commercial plantscape provider focused exclusively on achieving top notch quality and service level for clients, is excited to announce the successful acquisition of Foliage Design Systems in Orlando, Atlanta, Tampa Bay, and Jacksonville, FL ("FDS"). FDS has been providing "Nature Indoors Nationwide" for over 50 years. This strategic acquisition marks a significant step forward in expanding Botanical Designs' geographic capabilities and enhancing their commitment to creating stunning and vibrant green environments.

Edward McDonnell, CEO of Botanical Designs, expressed his enthusiasm about the acquisition: "At Botanical Designs, we're creating a nationwide commercial plantscape provider that embodies our company core values, provides top-notch responsiveness and quality to our clients, and develops our passionate employees in their own careers. Botanical Designs has a track record of continuing long-standing legacies of the businesses that we acquire, and we are excited to collaborate with the FDS team and client base in Orlando, Atlanta, Tampa Bay, and Jacksonville. The FDS team shares our vision of satisfying the growing demand for high impact plants and horticulture by doing things the right way."

Foliage Design Systems has been a trailblazer in the realm of interiorscaping, elevating indoor spaces with finesse and horticultural expertise. President David Liu shared his thoughts on the sale to Botanical Designs: "This partnership is a testament to our dedication to maintaining a high service level and pushing the boundaries of what's possible in the world of interiorscaping. We had high standards for the next owner of FDS. We wanted a buyer who shares our high-quality service values and will make every effort to preserve our longstanding relationships with our clients and employees that we developed over decades. Botanical Designs checked each of the boxes, and we are extremely excited about the partnership going forward."

The acquisition signifies a strategic progression by Botanical Designs to expand its Class A offerings to other well-established geographies, allowing both companies to provide a wider array of resources to their discerning clientele and highly passionate employees. With a shared commitment to sustainable practices and artistic excellence, Botanical Designs and Foliage Design Systems are poised to create stunning landscapes that merge innovation and nature seamlessly. Both companies are eager to embark on this new chapter of collaboration and are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for clients, employees, and partners.

About Botanical Designs:

Botanical Designs is creating a nationwide commercial plantscape provider, focused exclusively on achieving top notch quality and service level for clients. Founded in 1995, Botanical Designs has been growing organically and through acquisition, leveraging its attractive multi-state presence, rapidly growing customer base, sophisticated management team, and strong capital position. In November 2022, Botanical Designs partnered with Beach Point Capital which has provided significant resources to amplify Botanical Designs' vision and strategy. As a result, its team sees a tremendous opportunity to partner with other companies providing complementary interiorscape, holiday décor, and landscaping services to its existing portfolio offerings. Together, its vision is to become the leading national source of top quality recurring interiorscape and landscaping services for Class A commercial spaces.

Botanical Designs (www.botanicaldesigns.com) also includes McCaren Designs (www.mccaren.com), Plants Unlimited, The Interior Foliage Company, Greenwalls.com (www.greenwalls.com), and now Foliage Design Systems in Orlando, Atlanta, Tampa Bay, and Jacksonville, FL.

About Foliage Design Systems:

Foliage Design Systems has been providing "Nature Indoors Nationwide" for over 50 years, and is an award winning interior landscaping company that enhances businesses, commercial property environments, and residences with the beauty and benefits of plants. FDS provides a full range of indoor plant services and commercial holiday decor that include the design, installation, and maintenance of live plants and decorative planters.

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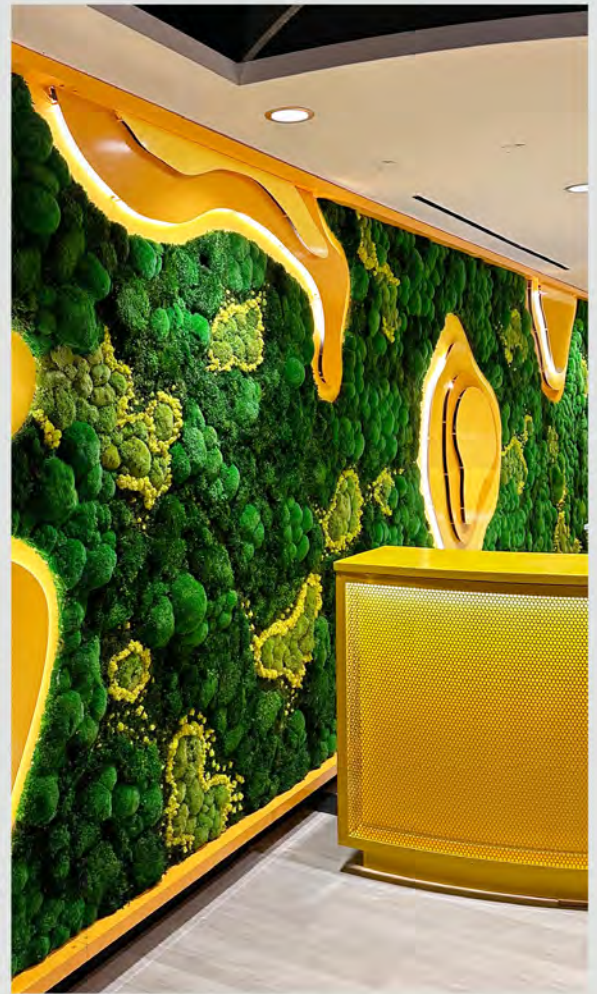
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Year In Review

The National Horticulture Foundation (NHF), has been serving the industry since 1987. It has always believed that the foundation's path is not just about reaching a destination, but it is about the long-term journey that continues with the help of industry experience and support. NHF will always be committed to investing in the industry's future and supporting it through thick and thin.

Despite the wavering financial markets, NHF's portfolio remains strong, and the foundation continues to monitor its investment strategies to provide funding for the nursery and landscape industry annually. NHF's board always seeks out new ways to give back, understanding the importance of giving and its impact on the industry's future. To learn more about NHF's annual report, please visit our website or use the provided QR code.



National Horticulture Foundation, 1533 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835.

If you have additional questions, contact Linda Reindl, lreindl@fnhla.org or call 407/295-7994 or 800/375-3642.
www.nationalhorticulturefoundation.org



National Interiorscape Network

Your Blueprint for Success

PRESS RELEASE

September 12, 2023

We are pleased to announce that long time NIN Partner, Rick Klass, of INTERMOUNTAIN PLANT WORKS in Salt Lake City, Utah, closed on the sale of his business on the 1st of this month with his General Manager, Rose Formaro and her husband Charlie.

Rick said, "I'm pleased and excited that Rose and Charlie have taken over IPW, and I'm sure they will continue to create a strong and sustainable business in the future. Under Rose's past leadership as General Manager she has proven that she is ready for the next challenge of ownership. Charlie and Rose will be a great team to lead IPW into the future."

Rose and Charlie share that "Rick has allowed us the ability to build upon our skills, and we're very grateful that he has provided us with this exciting opportunity to be owners of the business. Our goal is to continue to build on the foundation that Rick has created and to make IPW an even stronger business in the future."

The National Interiorscape Network had the pleasure of assisting Rick, Rose and Charlie throughout the entire process from the initial discussions about the opportunity to valuating the business, creating a transactional process that worked for everyone, and assisting with the transitional planning.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rick, Rose and Charlie, and good luck on your new journey!



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6" TRASH BAG



10"

EXEC. POCKET CADDY
 MINI



13 1/4"

13"

13 QT "MINI" TOTE
 W/ WATERPROOF LINER



8"

8 1/4"

6" TRASH BAG
 PETITE



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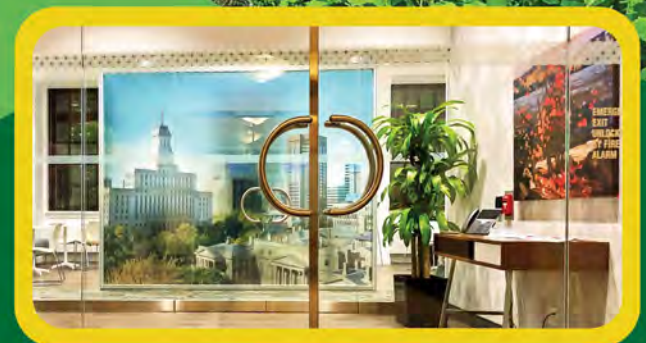
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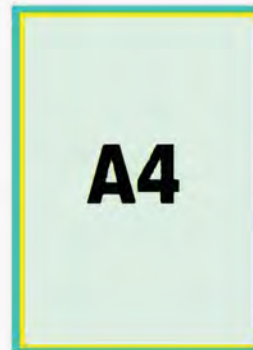
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