

Growers Swap Shop

Brought to you by the
Landscape Illinois Growers Committee



**LANDSCAPE
ILLINOIS**

GROWERS COMMITTEE



**LANDSCAPE
ILLINOIS**

THE STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION
FOR LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

Landscape Illinois Growers Committee

John Worth, Kankakee Nursery Co – Chair

Jamie Thomas, Spring Grove Nursery – Associate Chair

Becky Thomas, Spring Grove Nursery – Board Liaison

Andy Fields, Goodmark Nurseries

Mike Krueger, Midwest Groundcovers

Jonathan Stickels, Mariani Plants

Laurie Damgaard, Kaneville Tree Farms

Joe Juricic, LandscapeHub

Dennis Rohr, Hinsdale Nurseries

Tyler Perkins – Winding Creek Nursery

Joe Smolecki – Hoffie Nursery

Matt Fredrickson – Hampshire Farms

Andy Ward, Doty Nurseries

Dave Lendon, Willoway Nurseries

GROWERS SWAP SHOP: SOLVING PROBLEMS

This year's Swap Shop goes beyond grower-only topics to explore shared challenges across the industry. In this Hot Seat format, members of the Growers Committee will each give a quick 2–3-minute overview of a real-world issue.

Then the speaker listens as the audience offers ideas, solutions, and practical insights through a structured peer-feedback process. Fast, collaborative, and cross-industry, this session is designed for anyone working in the landscape industry who wants to learn, contribute, and walk away with fresh perspectives.

Jonathan Stickels

Mariani Plants - Garden Prairie, IL

***Problem:** There is a stated desire by many stakeholders in the industry to increase tree diversity. How can nurseries help achieve this goal while maintaining efficiency and profitability?*

Mike Krueger

Midwest Groundcovers - St. Charles, IL

Problem: How do nursery growers, especially in container production, ensure water quality crucial to healthy plant growth, nutrient uptake, and preventing disease?

Dave Lendon

Willoway Nurseries - Avon, OH

Problem: How do our growers and sales team connect with the next generation of buyers?

John Worth

Kankakee Nursery Co – Aroma Park, IL

Problem: How can growers balance the desire for quicker and more automated inventory systems with the need for accuracy and reliability in their numbers?

Jeff Wurtz

Hinsdale Nurseries – Plano, IL

***Problem:** How can nursery growers, particularly in B&B nurseries, ensure correct planting depth to develop a healthy root system, while improving survival and growth in the landscape?*

Join Us for the 2026 Growers Tour September 15-17, 2026

- ✓ Hotel block - \$99 room rate!
- ✓ Group transportation to each stop
- ✓ Group evening activities

Tour stops include:

- ✓ **Willoway Nurseries Inc** – Over 2,000 plant varieties with 550 acres in field production, 450 acres in container stock, and 32 acres in greenhouse production
- ✓ **Holden Arboretum** – spans over 3,600 acres and features the Kalberer Emergent Tower & Murch Canopy Walk
- ✓ **Green Circle Growers** - One of the largest greenhouses in North America, with over 15 acres of indoor growing space
- ✓ **AgriNomix** – Automation experts for growers of all sizes with solutions for streamlining production
- ✓ **Corso's Horticulture** – More than 1,000 perennials grown onsite and more than \$30 million in sales last year

More details will be posted at landscapeillinois.org/il-events



THANK YOU!