

Be green: sustainable landscape practices



If you're looking to make your property more "green," we can help.

The Growing Company has been using sustainable landscape practices for more than 20 years. Our programs conserve water, soil and energy, reduce waste, and help prevent water, air and soil pollution.

A sustainable landscape is not only environmentally sound, but beautiful and cost-effective, too.

Healthy plants, healthy planet.

Makes sense, doesn't it?

See our 27-Point Sustainable Landscape Maintenance Program on page two.

**THE
GROWING
COMPANY**_{Inc.}

*Proactive care for
commercial landscapes*

4 Wayne Court

Building 3

Sacramento

California 95829

916 379 9088 *p*

916 379 9011 *f*

www.thegrowingcompany.com

Member, U.S. Green Building Council
Certified Sacramento Sustainable Business

Green Advantage Environmental Certification (Bruno Sandoval, President)



LEED® certification experts

The Growing Company can help you earn LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for existing buildings.

Integrated pest management, erosion control, water-efficient landscaping, sustainable landscape maintenance plan – they're required for LEED® certification, and they're already built into The Growing Company programs.

We can even help you with the paperwork by supplying the documents for the landscape section of the LEED® application.

Ask us about it!

The Growing Company's 27-Point Sustainable Landscape Maintenance Program

Conserving water with efficient irrigation practices

- We use **drip irrigation systems** wherever possible – the most efficient way to deliver water to plants. Drip systems reduce water waste, water cost, and plant disease, and there's no overspray on paved areas or building structures.
- We use **ground cover and mulch** in planter beds – reduces evaporation and retains water in the soil. Adds nutrients to the soil, too.
- We use **drought-resistant plants** where possible.
- We use **Smart Irrigation Controllers and Rain Sensors** – reduces water use by fine-tuning irrigation to plants' precise water needs. Shuts off irrigation during rain.
- We **water between 12:00 am and 6:00 am** – cooler temperatures reduce evaporation and allow water to penetrate deeply to roots. Calmer winds allow water to be delivered efficiently to plants, not blown onto pathways and buildings.
- We program **multiple irrigation cycles** – long, single applications of water can create runoff and waste. Shorter, multiple cycles allow time between cycles for water to penetrate more deeply into the soil.
- We **inspect and adjust sprinklers weekly** – ensures efficient delivery of water to plants.
- We **repair broken sprinklers and lines immediately** – reduces water waste and damage to plants.
- We use **master valves** on major irrigation lines – electronically-controlled automatic shut-off prevents water waste in the event of a broken line, valve or sprinkler.
- We watch for and **prevent water runoff**.
- We **aerate lawns** to help water and nutrients penetrate deep to the roots –promotes a healthier lawn with less water use.
- We offer **alternatives to lawns** –drought- and pest-resistant plants reduce water and pesticide use while retaining the beneficial cooling effect of plants.

Sparing the air with efficient, low-emission equipment

- We use only **low-emission power equipment** – and only when necessary. We upgrade to more efficient equipment as soon as it becomes available.
- On **Spare The Air Days**, we do not use combustion equipment.

Promoting clean water and soil with sustainable pest and plant management

- We use **organic pest controls** as much as possible.
- We use only **biodegradable** fertilizers, pest controls and weed controls – safer for people, plants and animals. We always select the safest available option for each situation.
- We use **pest-resistant plants** – reduces the need for chemical pest controls.
- We keep landscapes clear of debris, **reducing rodent nests** and the need to eliminate them by chemical means.
- **Targeted pest controls** – we never “blanket-apply” pest controls. We target only the areas needing control, keeping pesticide use to a minimum.
- **Hand and mechanical weeding** is used wherever possible – reduces the need for herbicides.
- **Erosion control** – we use landscape barriers during construction projects to prevent soil runoff into gutters and streams.

Using sun & shade to reduce building energy use

- We **plant trees** to shade parking lots and buildings – shade cools the area and reduces building energy use.
- **Pruning helps control temperatures** – we prune trees to maximize shade in the summer and sunlight in winter, helping buildings and paved areas stay cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

Reducing landfill waste by recycling

- We “**grasscycle**” with mulching mowers – recycles grass clippings by shredding them into compost and putting them back into the lawn. Mulching puts nutrients back into the soil and reduces the need for fertilizers by up to 30%.
- We send green waste to a **mulching facility** – saves landfill space and recycles green waste into mulch and soil amendments.

- **Container recycling** – we recycle all plastic and wood containers. Biodegradable containers for annual plantings are made of recycled cardboard and wood materials.
- We use **recycled products** as much as possible – plastic header board, mulches, wood products, etc.

