

## **Title: Sustainable Landscape Management and Nursery Production**

**Project Leader: Tawny Simisky**

### **Project Overview**

The UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Team operates within the Agriculture & Landscape Program of UMass Extension. The team works closely with the UMass Extension Turf Team to educate landscape, nursery and turf professionals by providing programs and research-based information on the best horticultural practices and technology for environmental stewardship in nursery and landscape management. The core of the program is a group of educators and specialists in weed science, entomology, plant pathology, plant materials, alternative pest controls, and diagnostics. Working with the largest and fastest growing commercial agricultural segment in Massachusetts continually challenges the Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Team to address the industry's immediate problems and to anticipate future educational requirements.

### **Activity Summary – 2018**

- Community Tree Conference (1)
- Emerald Ash Borer Field Day (1)
- Bark Beetle ID & Related Topics Training (1)
- Invasive Plant Management Workshops (5)
- Invited Presentations (39)
- Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry Walkabouts (5)
- Landscape & Forest Tree & Shrub Disease Workshop (2)
- On site consultations (4)
- Sustainable Landscape Management Workshop (1)
- Landscape Safety Conference (1)
- Creating an Edible Landscape (1)

### ***Total Educational contacts***

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|--|------|
| Direct Contacts                        | 4013 |
| Indirect Contacts (Print, Web, etc...) |      |

## **Narrative Summary and Impact**

In 2018, the Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program held at least 19 separate educational programs including day-long and multi-day conferences and trainings, on-site walkabouts, and lab oriented courses for our professional stakeholders represented in the outputs reported here. Additionally, a number of invited talks (typically 50-minutes each) were requested of our specialists by stakeholder groups and occasionally stakeholders request site visits. 23 publications of the Landscape Message, a free educational newsletter for professionals, was provided by the program. 12 issues of Hort Notes and 8 issues of Garden Clippings were also published. Hort Notes is a monthly, web-based newsletter for professionals and Garden Clippings is a web-based newsletter for Home Gardeners. We also maintain and update a number of web-based Fact Sheets on topics including cultural practices, diseases, environmental stress, insects and mites, nursery production, plant materials, and weeds. Other online offerings include the Professional Disease Guide and Weed Herbarium. The Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program also publishes annually the Garden Calendar, a resource that provides daily tips based on research and highlights sustainable planting practices in our landscapes. Our program also pulls together the Green Directory, a comprehensive printed guide to educational resources for Massachusetts Agriculture and Green Industry Professionals (also available online). We work with the UMass Plant Diagnostics Laboratory and our disease, insect, and weed specialists provide diagnostic support and reporting to the lab for samples falling under their specialty areas. In addition, each specialist answers phone calls, e-mails, and social media messages and questions from professionals regarding questions about their topic area on a daily basis. Our Educational Programs Manager also manages Master Gardener volunteers who help assist with answering home gardener questions throughout the year. As needed, we interact with the media and conduct newspaper, web-based, and on camera interviews. We partner with Massachusetts professional associations, local, state, and federal government agencies, and UMass faculty to tackle the most pressing issues facing the industry. As requested, we provide articles to professional associations to highlight these issues to their members in their own publications and newsletters (ex. the recent gypsy moth outbreak, advances with winter moth biological control, and new invasive insects such as the spotted lanternfly). Our program has also collaborated on grants and interdepartmental service agreements from the MA Department of Agricultural Resources and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

## **Collaborating Organizations**

- **Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association**
- **New England Nursery Association**
- **Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation**
- **Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources**

