A **bright** future for Michigan's nurseries and greenhouses

A recent report, *Trends in Michigan Agriculture*, by the Sparks Companies Inc., said:

Nursery and greenhouse products were the fastest growing sector in production agriculture for both Michigan and the United States over the last three decades with cash receipts increasing 244.9% nationally, and Michigan receipts growing 302.5%. In the 1990s, Michigan's cash receipts outpaced U.S. receipts, increasing 44.5% versus 20.3%, respectively. Michigan is ideally situated (climatically and geographically) to grow greenhouse and nursery products. Given the prospects for continued growth in the U.S. economy and related resiliency in the housing market, Michigan's greenhouse and nursery industry should experience strong positive growth.

**Dallas landscape company establishes memorial fund**

**DALLAS, TX** — To honor the memory of a 45-year employee named Thomas "Tommy" B. Masterson, Lambert's Landscape Company, Dallas, TX donated $50,000 to establish the Lambert-Masterson Memorial Fund to benefit horticulture students at Richland Community College.

In addition to the establishing of the memorial fund, Masterson's favorite red oak tree (*Quercus shumardii*), which measures 14 caliper inches, stands 40-ft. tall and weighs 15 tons, was transplanted to Richland's campus.

Up until his death in 1999, Masterson, Lambert's executive vice president and director of operations, helped the company achieve a local, regional and national reputation for excellence in landscape quality and craftsmanship.

**En español**

Readers of the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association’s (ILCA) monthly magazine, *The Landscape Contractor*, might want to brush up on their Spanish now that the magazine has decided to publish Spanish articles to recognize the longtime presence of Hispanics in the landscape industry. The first two articles were entitled, “The Illinois Department of Agriculture Offers Pesticide Advice” and “How to Buy Nursery Stock in a Tight Market,” and both were introduced by ILCA member Tony Sanchez of R. Sanchez and Sons, Beach Park, IL. Habla español? If you can’t answer that question, then you probably can’t read the articles.

They said it

"To be outside and not cooped up in an office building. I also enjoy working with plants, and I think the growth process is fascinating."

— Robin Isley, a senior with a major in General Horticulture, North Carolina State University, on why she is seeking a professional career in the Green Industry. She was spotted at ALCA’s annual Student Career Days last March in Starkville, MS.