

# NEWS+VIEWS

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS, TRENDS AND TIPS

## IMMIGRATION REFORM

### PLANET/LM survey shows support for citizenship “road map”

**W**ith some signs in Congress that immigration reform may happen this year, *Landscape Management* and the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) partnered on an immigration sentiments survey among members of the landscape and lawn care industry.

The survey was fielded online in February and March, garnering 536 responses with a +/-5 percent margin of error and a 95 percent confidence interval.

It's clear members of the landscape industry believe immigration policy needs to be fixed at the federal level—81 percent of respondents say so. That may be because nearly two-thirds of respondents say they have trouble finding and keeping workers.

Other answers weren't as definitive. For example, on the question, “Should illegal immigrants already here be able to legally work here?” respondents were nearly split, with 45 percent of them saying “yes,” 42 percent of them saying “no” and 13 percent of them unsure.

#### » WEB EXTRA

For the full report on landscape industry immigration reform sentiments, visit [LandscapeManagement.net](http://LandscapeManagement.net).

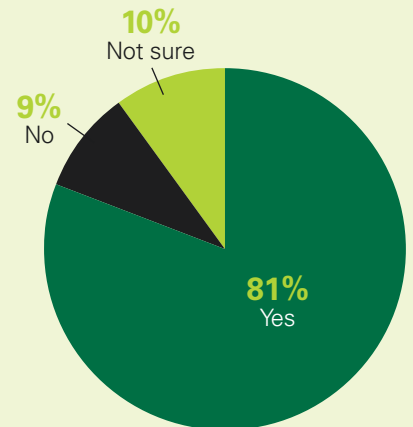
On a question about an immigration policy that includes a road map to citizenship for immigrants who already live and work in the U.S. and aspire to be citizens, landscape industry members' response—75 percent in support—mirrors the general public's sentiments from a

Pew Research Center/*USA Today* survey from last June. That survey found 71 percent of U.S. adults in support of a way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the country legally, if they meet certain requirements.

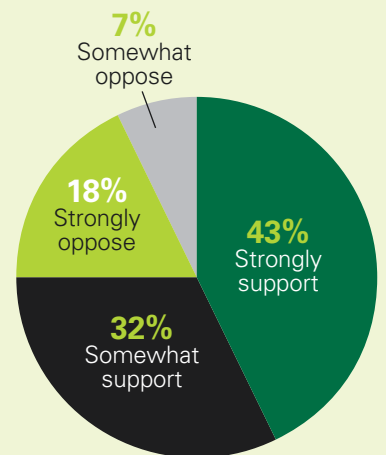
Despite 99 percent of respondents saying it's important they have an all-legal workforce, 39 percent of respondents also say they believe some of their workers' I-9 forms may be backed up with falsified paperwork. More than a third of respondents use E-Verify, voluntarily or because their state requires it, the survey shows.

While most people (81 percent) say they would reach out to their senators and U.S. representatives to ask them to fix the immigration system now, if given the chance, the No. 1 reason respondents who say they wouldn't contact their legislators is they “don't think it would help.” —*Marisa Palmieri*

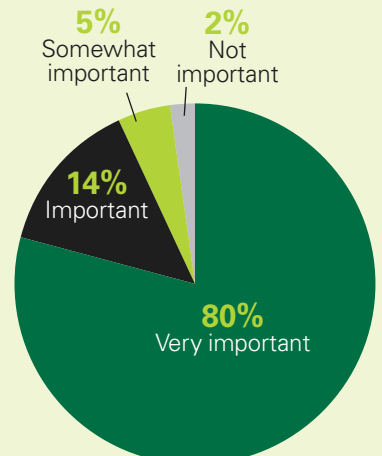
Do you feel the issue of immigration is important to the landscape industry and needs to be fixed on the federal level?



Do you support or oppose a new immigration policy that includes a road map to citizenship for immigrants who already live and work in the United States and aspire to be U.S. citizens?



How important is it to your business to be assured that you have a 100 percent legal workforce?



Numbers don't equal 100% due to rounding.

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## NEWS+VIEWS

### Scotts testing GMO turfgrass

**T**he Scotts Miracle-Gro Co., based in Marysville, Ohio, will test a genetically modified grass seed in the family lawns of a small number of employees this growing season, *The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch* reports.

The employees will test Kentucky bluegrass that has been modified to protect it from being killed by Roundup, the herbicide produced by Monsanto and sold by Scotts.

The employee testing "is a major step forward," Scotts CEO Jim Hagedorn told shareholders at their annual meeting Jan. 30, *The Columbus Dispatch* reports. "I think we will see limited commercial activity the following year (2015), and I think, if all goes well, much more (activity) in the consumer market in 2016."

In 2011 the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which regulates genetically modified crops, exempted Scotts' genetically modified Kentucky bluegrass from regulation because of the way the seed was modified.

## MAILBOX



### Life is short

I just read the comment "Bigger's not better" in Mailbox in the March 2013 issue of *Landscape Management* by Charles Bowers. I applaud his remarks on the continuation of the American ego myth about bigger is better. Every one of the trade magazines that I receive glamorizes companies for how many sales they have and how many employees they have. Please tell us more about these sales. How many coronary problems did these sales cause? How many divorces? I have a small landscape company that's doing just fine. I have time to spend with family, work out at the gym and run the business. Life is short and if I remember correctly what Sam Walton once said, "I would have liked to have spent a little more time with the family" was his only regret.

#### Rusty Moore

*President  
The Southern Planter  
Spartanburg, S.C.*

Kudos? Complaints? Share your thoughts with the *Landscape Management* team by emailing [mpalmieri@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:mpalmieri@northcoastmedia.net).