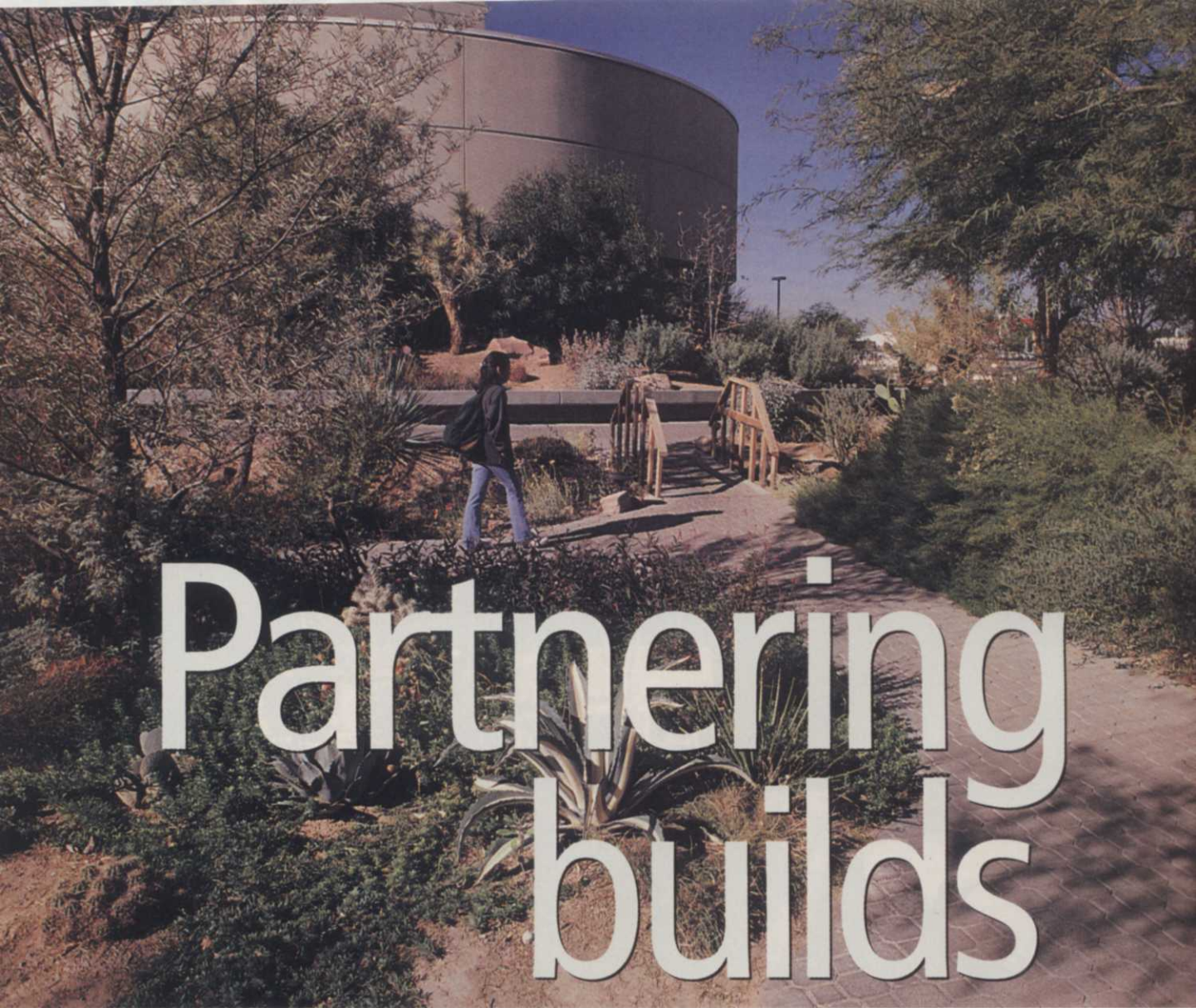




▼ Cascading flower pots are used where no planting beds can be developed.





Partnering builds

Las Vegas projects

Need to fund landscape projects? This UNLV grounds manager found his funding through creative partnerships on and off-campus

By DON DALE

The University of Nevada at Las Vegas is a beautiful campus in a rich, booming city. But because of landscaping budget restraints, it has had to find innovative means of funding new landscape projects. Partnering with other departments on campus, as well as businesses and individuals off campus, has provided that means, and Dennis Swartzell has used it to its fullest.

Swartzell is the director of landscape, grounds and arboretum at UNLV, a 330-

acre campus with 21,000 students. He says the partnering program came about because of necessity and has evolved into a way of life.

"We've gotten some things done that we wouldn't have been able to do financially," Swartzell says. He explains that UNLV is a young school — only 40 years old — and puts most of its money into capital programs such as a new law school.

It started with xeric

The partnering program started almost inadvertently when there was a movement

◀ The UNLV xeric garden, which was the university's first big partnering project.

on campus to start a xeric garden, where desert plants could be displayed. It was a tough sell financially for the university administration. "They agreed, on the stipulation that it wouldn't cost the university any money," he recalls.

Swartzell, who has worked at the university for 16 years after coming from Georgia, says a local architect, Jack Zunino, donated his design services. The on-campus Museum of Natural History agreed to pay university landscape workers to do the labor.

"We went to many businesses and asked for assistance," Swartzell says. It paid off. Nurseries donated plants, for example, and a landscape supply company donated boulders. UNLV paid for lighting and the attractive paving in the garden, 15,000 sq. ft. of which was laid down by inmates from a local prison.

"I can't tell you how many sleepless nights I had over this," Swartzell says, recalling the logistical nightmare of coordinating so many individual efforts. The project was worrisome because it had so many new and unpredictable elements. But it turned out to be successful, and a camaraderie among the volunteers was established that would last for years.

"We planted 700 shrubs in one day with volunteers," he says. Now the university not only had a beautiful 1.5-acre xeric garden, it also had a base of donors and volunteers to call on for future projects.

Later, a project within a project developed when another donor paid for a bird viewing area — \$7,000 worth — as a family memorial. It included vegetation, a masonry wall and a water feature.

Piece-by-piece campus redesign

Swartzell says partnering actually be-

came a formal program in 1990 when the university's new Landscape Architecture Department came into being. The faculty asked the administration for permission to redesign the entire campus landscaping, with the focus on reducing turf for conservation purposes.



Dennis Swartzell,
UNLV's director of
landscape, grounds
and arboretum

That initiative resulted in a master plan calling for the elimination of 18 acres of turf (of 80 acres of landscaping on campus, 59 were turf). But what was to become the "Turf Reduction Program" was estimated to cost \$3.2 million, which the university simply did not have. "We went into our next mode of partnering," Swartzell says.

A UNLV student group called Students Conscious of Protecting the Environment (SCOPE) was interested in the conservation of water and

formed the Stomp the Grass program, working with the university to reduce turf on campus. Students in SCOPE raised money, located business partners and donated their own labor to help Swartzell's Facilities Department enact the master plan. They produced a video to be used in promoting volunteerism and located an architect willing to draw up the landscape plans for free. Since then, turf reduction has proceeded by "little pieces" until the 18-acre goal has nearly been met.

"We're completing our last unit that's on paper," Swartzell notes, and SCOPE is still working with them, though not as active as it once was because of student graduations.

Community partnerships

But even within that partnership, other partnerships have developed. Five years ago, for example, Clark County approached the university about widening Tropicana Avenue on one border of the campus. Swartzell's group convinced the

county to pay \$120,000 to relandscape the roadside in exchange for permission to widen the street.

As a result, two acres of turf came out and were converted to water-conserving plants. That came at little cost to the university and helped further its long-term landscape goals.

Another project, a reduction in the two acres of turf around the Bigelow Health Sciences Building, was completed in a partnership with the Aid For AIDS Nevada chapter. The group wanted to create an AIDS memorial on campus, and Swartzell and his associates came up with the idea of combining goals.

"It was a little too aggressive for us to do," he says of converting the Bigelow acreage to xeric landscaping. But the AIDS group donated \$9,000, mostly for plants and rocks, and a memorial was set up that had the end effect of relandscaping the area.

"We did a lot of the work with volunteers and in-house resources," Swartzell explains.

Master gardeners get involved

One of the most productive partnerships has been with the Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program in Las Vegas. That organization was looking for a place where master gardeners could get certification and experience, and it just so happened that the university was looking for volunteer landscaping assistance.

"We jumped on this one, big-time," Swartzell says.

The partnership started as a training program. Swartzell provided the master gardeners 20 hours annually. But the gardeners kept coming back and have established a twice-monthly workday when they come on campus to work on a landscape project with him. It is often in the form of providing expertise in exacting skills such as tree pruning or planting.

"We've had three annual plant sales, and they do all the labor," Swartzell adds.

UNLV's Partnerships at a Glance

- ▶ 330-acre campus
- ▶ 21,000 students
- ▶ Xeric garden partnership: local architect, on-campus Museum of Natural History, local businesses & nurseries, local prison, UNLV
- ▶ Campus redesign: Students (SCOPE), landscape architecture department, local businesses, UNLV
- ▶ Smaller projects: Clark County, Aid for AIDS (Nevada chapter), UNLV, volunteers,
- ▶ Master gardeners projects: Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, UNLV, Clark County Conservation District
- ▶ Alumni projects: UNLV Alumni Association, UNLV Facilities Department, local nurseries.



The campus is designated as an arboretum, and the master gardeners conduct the sales, as well as tours, to promote it. "We have some master gardeners with thousands of hours on campus," Swartzell adds.

Campus tree inventory

Obviously, that is like adding more staff to the Facilities Department. A recent spin-off partnership evolved from the master gardeners — a tree inventory of the campus.

That project came from the Clark County Conservation District, which was assisting the county health department do a tree inventory of Las Vegas. The university was selected as the prototype site for the survey, which will eventually encompass the whole city. But for now, the county is giving UNLV a free inventory.

"We pulled the master gardeners in to do the tree identification," Swartzell points out. "It was a win/win/win situation."

Getting alums enlisted

The latest partnership project was with

the UNLV Alumni Association, which wanted to provide gifts to the campus. Swartzell, a floriculture graduate of the University of Georgia, says that the UNLV Alumni Amphitheater, an open-air theater, was a direct result of that initiative.

The alumni gave \$100,000 for construction of the amphitheater, which consists of turf seating on a terraced swell. It provides a nice outdoor space for students to speak or simply study in the sun.

"The alumni worked with local contractors — also some alumni worked at reduced cost," Swartzell says. In addition to the amphitheater, the alumni donated 40 trees to commemorate the university's 40th anniversary.

Those trees were used in two themes: half went to line the Alumni Walk and half to the Alumni Grove. One area is oak trees; the other has mixed species. With the trees came three information kiosks, all free to the university.

Something that also benefits the univer-

▲ The UNLV Alumni Association partnership with the university resulted in this Alumni Grove and other projects that cost the university very little.

sity, Swartzell says, is the Facilities Department's enthusiasm to evaluate plants on campus to determine their appropriateness for the Las Vegas climate and soil. He considers this a form of partnership, since the nurseries that avail themselves of the service gain knowledge and sales contacts, while UNLV gets free trees and discounts on future sales and service.

As a result of all this partnering, UNLV and the arboretum have been able to enhance their motto: The Emerald in the Desert. **LM**

—The author is a freelance writer based in Hollywood, CA



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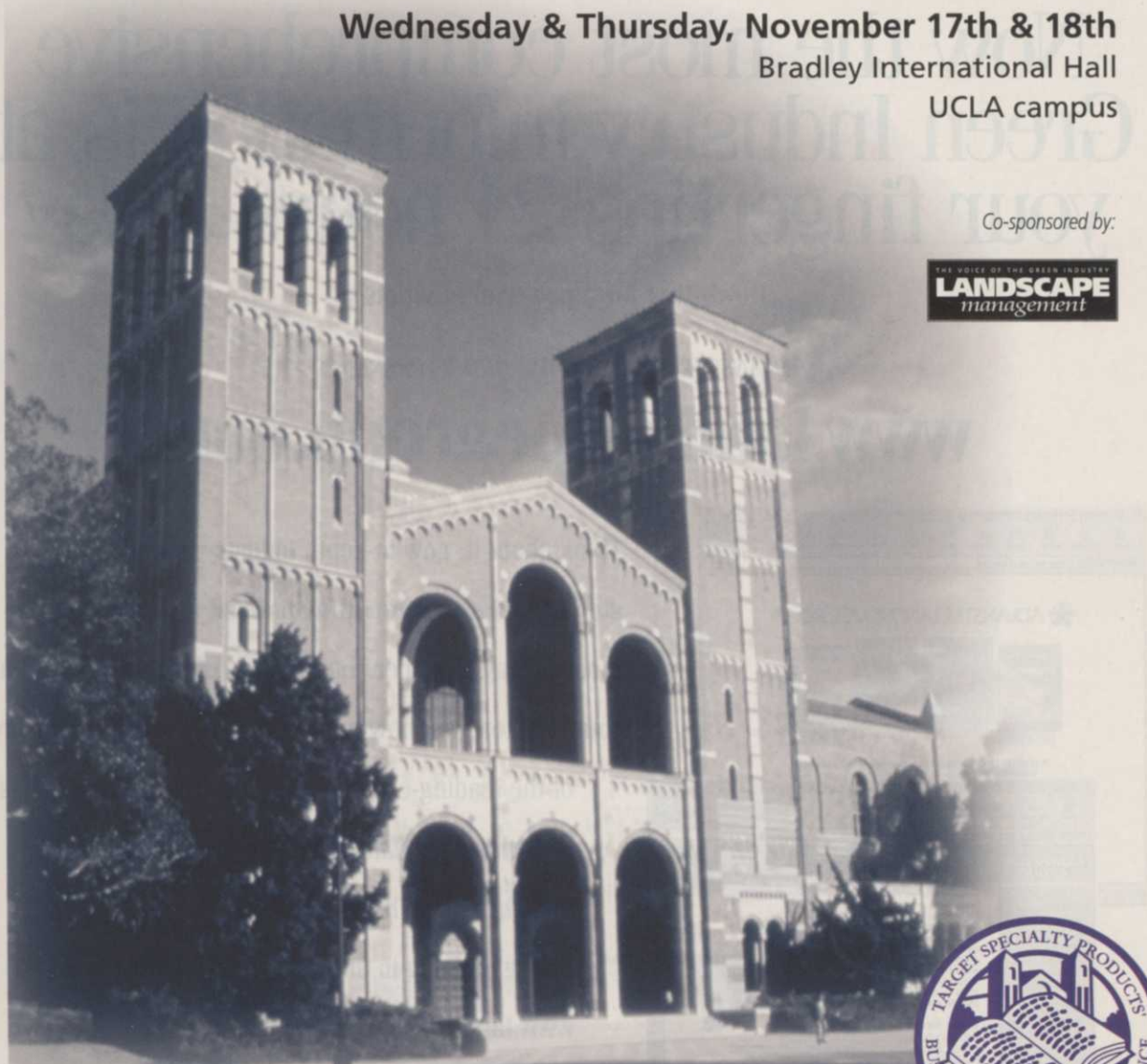
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SAWS THAT CUT DOWN TOUGH JOBS

By CURT HARLER/Contributing Editor

Like any other piece of mechanical equipment, performance and safe operation are among the key buying factors for chain saws. When a professional like Keith Carracher is in the market for a saw, he is looking for one thing: a durable machine that will hold up for the tough workouts a professional gives the saw daily.

Carracher is operations manager for Complete Property Maintenance (CPM), Coconut Creek, FL. CPM offers a full line of property maintenance services to customers along southeast Florida. They do everything from fertilization and pesticide application, to irrigation and tree work. This may include standard trimming or the removal of mature trees.

CPM employs 150, and there are about 15 chain saws in regular use by CPM's workers. "We've tried every brand," he says, adding that Stihl is his favorite. Carracher is convinced that Stihl's oiling system is superior to other brands. He's impressed

that the company puts oilers both at the pump and in the bar itself.

"When we look for a saw, it depends on the type of trimming we expect to do," Carracher continues. "You want to have various saws for various jobs." A Class I or Class II trimming job requires a saw with a shorter bar and lighter weight, something more nimble for the operator to use and one which can safely be maneuvered.

For take-downs, he looks for a larger saw with a longer bar — something in the 30-in. range.

If you're in the market for one or more saws, check out the latest offerings presented here. You're bound to find an appropriate workhorse that can handle jobs from simple pruning to complete tree removal.



The Echo CS-3450 is available with a standard 16-in. bar and chain, but can be fitted with a 12- or 14-in. setup also. This model features the Slope Advance Ignition System.

continued on page 48

continued from page 47

JOHN DEERE
800/537-8233
www.deere.com

Both the 200CS and 230CS chain saws from John Deere, Research Triangle Park, NC, are ideal for delimiting, pruning or cutting firewood. The 200 is powered by a 33 cc and the 230 by a 38 cc Pow-erstroke engine with vertical cylinder designed for durability and efficiency. Either of these 10-lb. units can be equipped with 14-, 16- or 18-in. guide bars. Electronic ignition gives quick, dependable starts and the Safe-T Tip anti-kickback device prevents saw kickback for better operator control.

Circle No. 250

ECHO
800/432-ECHO

The CS-3450 features a standard 16-in. bar and chain with 12 or 14 in. available. Lightweight and powerful, it uses the Slope Advance Ignition System. It develops a maximum

12,000 no-load RPMs. Also check out the new PPSR-2122 and PPSR-2433 Power Pruners from Echo, Lake Zurich, IL. Telescoping and extended shafts keep operators away from the saw and falling branches. The 2122 has a 21.2-cc engine, a 10-in. bar and weighs 9.5 lbs. The 2433 has a 23.6-cc engine, 12- or 14-in. bar and weighs 9.9 lbs. Both are covered by a one-year commercial warranty. Also available is a hedge clipper and circular saw accessory.

Circle No. 251

GREENLEE-FAIRMONT-TEXTRON
800/435-0786
www.greenlee.textron.com

The H6200B chainsaw from Greenlee-Fairmont-Extron, Rockford, IL, has an 18-in. bar that can cut up to 15 in. in a single pass. Ideal for large trimming applications, it features a two-step trigger, wide trigger guard, knuckle guard, full-cover sprocket guard and anti-

kickback bar and chain. The Super Spool selector control, rugged gear motor and automatic chain oiler make this saw reliable and operator-friendly.

Circle No. 252

HUSQVARNA
800/HUSKY62
www.husqvarna.com

New this summer is the 346XP chain saw from Husqvarna, Charlotte, NC. Designed for users who need speed, it operates at 14,700 no-load rpm, weighs 10.6 lbs. and features air injection, LowVib and CoolFlo clutch. It has a 2.5-hp, 45-cc engine and has a capacity of just over a pint of fuel. Also available is the new 325P4 pole chain saw. With its rear handle, a



The 346XP weighs 10.6 lbs.

user can reach limbs up to 13 ft. without using a ladder. It is interchangeable with the 300 Series line of pole hedge trimmers, and is powered by a 24.5-cc, 1.2-hp engine.

Circle No. 253

MAKITA
714/522-8088
www.makita.com

Leading a group of brand new saws from Makita USA, La Mirada, CA, is the DCS34 general purpose chain saw. The 34 has a 14-in. bar, weighs 10 lbs. and is powered



Makita DCS34 workhorse.

by a 12,200 rpm 33-cc engine. The DCS540 features an 18-in. bar, weighs 10.4 lbs. and its 54-cc engine generates 12,500 rpm. The DCS6000I-21 is a 21-in. unit, weighing 13.2 lbs. and its 60-

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3. SERVICES PERFORMED (fill in ALL that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 40 <input type="radio"/> A Mowing | 45 <input type="radio"/> F Turf Fertilization | 50 <input type="radio"/> K Paving, Deck & Patio Installation |
| 41 <input type="radio"/> B Turf Insect Control | 46 <input type="radio"/> G Turf Disease Control | 51 <input type="radio"/> L Pond/Lake Care |
| 42 <input type="radio"/> C Tree Care | 47 <input type="radio"/> H Ornamental Care | 52 <input type="radio"/> M Landscape Installation |
| 43 <input type="radio"/> D Turf Aeration | 48 <input type="radio"/> I Landscape Design | 53 <input type="radio"/> N Snow Removal |
| 44 <input type="radio"/> E Irrigation Services | 49 <input type="radio"/> J Turf Weed Control | 54 <input type="radio"/> O Other (please specify) _____ |

4a. Do you specify, purchase or influence the selection of landscape products?

75 Yes 76 No

4b. If yes, check which products you buy or specify: (fill in ALL that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 55 <input type="radio"/> 1 Aerators | 62 <input type="radio"/> 8 Herbicides | 69 <input type="radio"/> 15 Sweepers |
| 56 <input type="radio"/> 2 Blowers | 63 <input type="radio"/> 9 Insecticides | 70 <input type="radio"/> 16 Tractors |
| 57 <input type="radio"/> 3 Chain Saws | 64 <input type="radio"/> 10 Line Trimmers | 71 <input type="radio"/> 17 Truck Trailers/Attachments |
| 58 <input type="radio"/> 4 Chipper-Shredders | 65 <input type="radio"/> 11 Mowers | 72 <input type="radio"/> 18 Trucks |
| 59 <input type="radio"/> 5 De-Icers | 66 <input type="radio"/> 12 Snow Removal Equipment | 73 <input type="radio"/> 19 Turfseed |
| 60 <input type="radio"/> 6 Fertilizers | 67 <input type="radio"/> 13 Sprayers | 74 <input type="radio"/> 20 Utility Vehicles |
| 61 <input type="radio"/> 7 Fungicides | 68 <input type="radio"/> 14 Spreaders | |

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107	119	131	143	155	167	179	191	203	215	227	239	251	263	275	287	299	311
108	120	132	144	156	168	180	192	204	216	228	240	252	264	276	288	300	312
109	121	133	145	157	169	181	193	205	217	229	241	253	265	277	289	301	313
110	122	134	146	158	170	182	194	206	218	230	242	254	266	278	290	302	314
111	123	135	147	159	171	183	195	207	219	231	243	255	267	279	291	303	315
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- 30 50 Other Titled and Non-Titled Personnel (please specify) _____

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- 43 D Turf Aeration
- 44 E Irrigation Services
- 45 F Turf Fertilization
- 46 G Turf Disease Control
- 47 H Ornamental Care
- 48 I Landscape Design
- 49 J Turf Weed Control
- 50 K Paving, Deck & Patio Installation
- 51 L Pond/Lake Care
- 52 M Landscape Installation
- 53 N Snow Removal
- 54 O Other (please specify) _____

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105	117	129	141	153	165	177	189	201	213	225	237	249	261	273	285	297	309
106	118	130	142	154	166	178	190	202	214	226	238	250	262	274	286	298	310
107	119	131	143	155	167	179	191	203	215	227	239	251	263	275	287	299	311
108	120	132	144	156	168	180	192	204	216	228	240	252	264	276	288	300	312
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111	123	135	147	159	171	183	195	207	219	231	243	255	267	279	291	303	315
112	124	136	148	160	172	184	196	208	220	232	244	256	268	280	292	304	316