



Relevance

Consumers look to industry professionals as experts in their field, and the landscape industry is no different. In Lubbock County, consumers are seeing a lack of extensive training, up to date knowledge, and credentials from landscape professionals that is resulting in wide spread loss of trees and plant materials, landscape business owners losing their businesses, worker job safety hazards, and a decline in our overall environmental aesthetic in the county.

Response

- 2022 Commercial Turf & Ornamental Workshop (76 professionals).
 - This (1) day in-person course offers (5) Texas Department of Agriculture Continuing Education Units for chemical applicators.
 - **Texas Department of Agriculture requires all chemical applicators to have (15) Continuing Education Units every (3) years to renew professional licenses and continue conducting business. The Commercial Turf & Ornamental Workshop fulfills this requirement.**
 - Topics covered: Herbicide and the Future, Identification and Control of Insect Pests on Turf Grass and Ornamentals, New Spray Laws and Regulations, Calibration of Spray Equipment, and Adjuvants to Overcome Water Quality Concerns
- 2022 International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist Prep Course (28 professionals)
 - This (2) day intensive in-person course offers a deep dive into the study materials for the Certified Arborist Exam.
 - Texas Forestry Personnel and Certified Professionals came to Lubbock from across the state in order to provide mentorship and guidance, emerging tree care issues, hands on class experience, and promote industry professionalism.

Evaluation Strategy

- 2022 International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist Prep Course pre-post evaluation was administered at the conclusion of the session. A total of 28 of 28 participants returned the evaluation instrument for a response rate of 100%.

VALUE STATEMENT

International Society of Arboriculture

Through research, technology, and education, the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) promotes the professional practice of arboriculture and fosters a greater worldwide awareness of the benefits of trees. ISA is focused on research and the dissemination of results to contribute to a world with healthier trees, sustainable communities, and a green economy. ISA is a cohesive, inclusive network of practitioners, scientists, and students that is recognized as the global source for arboricultural information and knowledge. Arborists are recognized as qualified, competent, and safe tree care professionals who are sought out by the public, government organizations, and other professions. Professional tree care practitioners have the required knowledge, training, and expertise to perform proper tree care safely.

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LUBBOCK COUNTY
LANDSCAPE
BUSINESSES
REACHED

Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticides

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is designated as the state's leading agency in the regulation of pesticide use and application. TDA is responsible for licensing and training pesticide applicators, overseeing worker protection, registering pesticides for sale in the state and working to minimize unnecessary impacts to agriculture while enhancing protection of endangered and threatened species.

RESULTS

Extension Agent Reid and other professionals taught each chapter of the ISA Certified Arborist Study Guide. Pre- and post-surveys indicate participants had gained statistically knowledge in the following areas:

Knowledge Gained

- Pre-survey average score: **46% (failing grade)**
- Post-survey average score: **82% (passing grade)**
- 43% increase in worker safety
- 79% increase in tree pruning
- 54% increase in tree biology and health

During the program, participants expressed the need for a tree climbing educational program and to have a set time to build local industry relationships. From this identified issue, Extension Agent Reid planned a "Learning to Climb" Workshop on 4/11/22 at the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum. (19) participants spent the day learning to climb from local tree professionals and networking over lunch, all while donating their expertise to the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum.



SUMMARY

The value of Landscape Industry Programs in Lubbock County is empowering landscape professionals with the knowledge and support to successfully practice horticultural activities, provide excellent services for the Lubbock County public, continue to operate their businesses, and provide safe job environments for employees.

FUTURE PROGRAMMING

The Commercial Turf & Ornamental program will continue in 2023. The ISA Certified Arborist Prep Course is projected to continue in 2024. Expansion areas include: new speakers and topics, hands on demonstrations, and new emerging horticultural issues.



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