

# Climate Change and its Potential Impact on the Plant Sector: *An Economic Perspective*

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# Three Elements

- A brief history of managed landscape in the United States
- Landscape plants: Contributing to the solution
- Landscape plants: Contributing relief

# Industry history

- Fruit trees and windbreaks/Major estates
- Post-WWII:
  - ◆ Middle class homeownership: suburbia
  - ◆ Garden center retailing
  - ◆ Disneyland
- '70s: Highway beautification
- '80s: commercial suburbia and office parks

# Recent economics -- estimated

- Nursery/greenhouse production: \$26b
- Landscape services: \$53b
- Wholesale/retail \$38b

Total: \$117b

◆ Labor : 1.65 million

# The Last Frontier

- Greening of the cities:
  - ◆ Parks & greenbelts
  - ◆ Urban villages
  - ◆ Green buildings
  - ◆ Bio-remediation
- Landscape restoration and rehabilitation

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# Part of the solution

- Oxygen Footprint:
  - 100 trees remove 23 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>/year
- Residential use
  - ◆ Reduce 36% of air conditioning costs
  - ◆ Reduce 25% of winter heating costs
- Emerging economic factor:
  - Eco-system services

# Part of the Solution: economics

- Investment: Only part of infrastructure that increases in value over time
- Monetizing the value of landscaping
- Sustainable Sites Initiative
- Climate change: Spreadsheet friendly from “whip” to “majestic”

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# Other factors to consider

- Longer growing cycle = more solution
- Horticultural zones moving northward =  
More plant diversity?
- Other climate change mitigation: Carbon offsets

# Resources

- U.S. Forest Service: [www.fs.fed.us/psw/](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/)
- Sustainable Sites Initiative:  
[www.sustainablesites.org](http://www.sustainablesites.org)
- Presenter: [rdolibois@anla.org](mailto:rdolibois@anla.org)

Your observations & questions?