

Spring 2020

# Garden Inspiration

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welcome to **Garden**  
**Inspiration**

Spring 2020

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let's grow

A chance to work with living, growing things was part of the reason gardening attracted me as a career. Little did I know how much the field itself would follow that path.

No longer a rural specialty, today's passionate gardeners are often city dwellers. I am constantly impressed by the beauty and bounty they produce. It takes great imagination to turn an unlikely urban nook into a living garden.

Gardeners are also growing in vision. I see many gardeners, both new and seasoned, think about planting as a personal way to improve our environment.

These trends carry over into new, green career opportunities; companies providing landscape services and products are committed to growing in creativity and vision as well. Opportunities range from landscaping and garden centres to design and technology. I have suggested horticulture as a career path to many young people. I watch them bloom in green careers today with deep-down pride and satisfaction.

So whether your interest is chrysanthemums or careers, be sure to visit **landscapeontario.com** to learn more. It's the first step on a path that's Green for Life. 🦋

ON THE COVER  
Sara Casey, summer student,  
Guelph Trial Gardens

COVER PHOTO  
Mike Schram



# green is the colour of



Trial Gardens manager Rodger Tschanz passed his enthusiasm on to Daffa Azkiana, Sara Casey and Emily Robinson.

# opportunity

## three students

experienced the horticulture profession firsthand during the summer of 2019, working at the University of Guelph Trial Gardens in Milton and Guelph, Ont. None of the students were enrolled in a horticulture program, but each had an interest in plants, enjoyed working outdoors and possessed a curiosity about career paths in the landscape trades.



# emily

**Emily Robinson** holds a degree in microbiology and is currently working on her master's. She decided to work at the trial gardens in the summer of 2019 since she had previous farming experience.

Although her degree is very different from her position at the trial gardens, Emily had grown up in a very agriculture-focused area, and enjoyed being able to see what is involved "behind the scenes" in both agriculture and ornamental horticulture.



“ My favourite plant from the trial gardens was the snapdragon. I loved the pink and orange colours and how they looked together, but I also love the name of this flower. I've always wanted to visit Monaco, so the "Monaco Orange" cultivar was also very attractive to me. ”

# Find *your* green career

Horticulture offers many choices for a successful career path. Education at high school, college and university levels is offered to gain the skills needed to become part of this vibrant, creative community making the world a greener place to live. Visit [greencareerscanada.ca](http://greencareerscanada.ca) and [landscapeontario.com](http://landscapeontario.com) to learn more about becoming a

professional in the horticulture industry. To connect with a real person, phone Landscape Ontario at 1-800-265-5656 to ask about launching your green career. If we can't answer your questions right away, we will connect you with a green professional who truly cares about your future!

*daffa*

**Daffa Azkiana** was one of three students to intern at the Guelph Trial Gardens in 2019 with Rodger Tschanz, Trial Gardens manager. Daffa was a co-op student, putting the finishing touches on her high school education. She decided to take some time to work and gain practical experience, with plans to enter university/college for a general science program in the fall of 2020.

Daffa's interest in the trial gardens was to gain some knowledge and experience with growing plants for her own garden at home, as well as exploring a future career path. The trial garden intern students were responsible for the daily irrigation, care and general maintenance of the plants and garden beds under the guidance of Tschanz.



“The verbena is my favourite mainly because of its height, the vibrant purple colour of the flower, and the fact that it's a pollinator plant.”





“ I really like the way all the different shades of blue salvias look together and how the ones in the trial garden were a little different than ones I’ve usually seen. I also enjoyed how many pollinators were attracted to it; I think that is an important factor to consider in your gardens and it is interesting to see all the different visitors. Honey bees, bumblebees, and butterflies all seemed to enjoy the flowers as well as hummingbirds that frequently visited the larger varieties of saliva.”

## sara

**Sara Casey**, a graduate in geography and geographical information systems, started working with Rodger Tschanz through the flexible internship course at the University of Guelph. The class focused on the agri-food industry and was open to all majors. Sara thought this would be a good opportunity to learn about possible career paths and gain some valuable experience. She enjoys working outdoors and had previous job experience working with plants, so she felt this might be a good fit.

Sara’s internship gave her the opportunity to help prepare the plants and set up the University of Guelph’s display at Canada Blooms in March 2019. After her placement was finished, Sara chose to continue as summer staff at the trial gardens in Guelph, maintaining and caring for the new varieties and plants being grown. 🦋





# graceful GARDENS

LANDSCAPE ONTARIO  
*Awards*  
of Excellence  
WINNER

Vibrant purple spikes are the perfect accent against the green hedges and plants.

## Breathtaking views

Snider Turf & Landscape Care of Waterloo, Ont., is a Landscape Ontario Awards of Excellence recipient for the beautiful work maintaining this property. Lines of trimmed boxwood and yew hedges accentuate the attention to detail, creating an elegant atmosphere. The landscape incorporates an array of colours, textures and fragrances that invite guests to stroll through the gardens and explore hidden treasures. Continuous blooms from perennials, roses and flowering shrubs provide colour through the changing seasons.

For inspiring ideas or to connect with a landscape pro in your area, use the search bar at [landscapeontario.com](https://landscapeontario.com). 

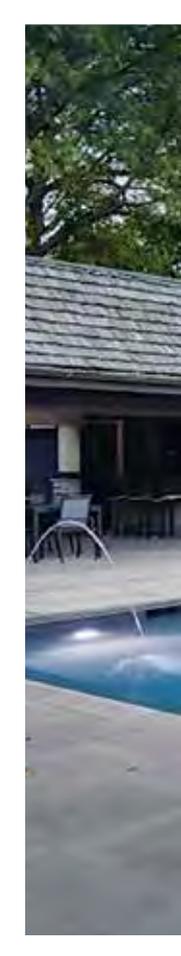




Perennials such as hostas, sedum and hydrangeas are bordered by perfectly trimmed hedges.

# relaxing in **LUXURY**

LANDSCAPE ONTARIO  
*Awards*  
of Excellence  
WINNER





# Sleek sophistication

This 19th century property created by Seferian Design Group of Burlington, Ont., is a Landscape Ontario Awards of Excellence winner. Careful consideration of existing features and new additions put the design process to the test. Trees were planted to gain more privacy for the property, along with lighting and fire pots to add ambience for evening parties. Comfortable seating areas for guests complete the elegant space.

A large pool with built-in water feature was installed as the focal point of the outdoor space. The pool also acts as a reflective surface for the surrounding landscape, adding to the warm, welcoming space.

For inspiring ideas or to connect with a landscape pro in your area, use the search bar at [landscapeontario.com](https://landscapeontario.com). 



Large planters with colourful blooms, textured grasses and cascading plants are a visual treat.



Fire pots, reflected in the pool, add nighttime drama.

Water spouts provide soothing sounds.

# precision in **DESIGN**

LANDSCAPE ONTARIO  
*Awards*  
of Excellence  
WINNER



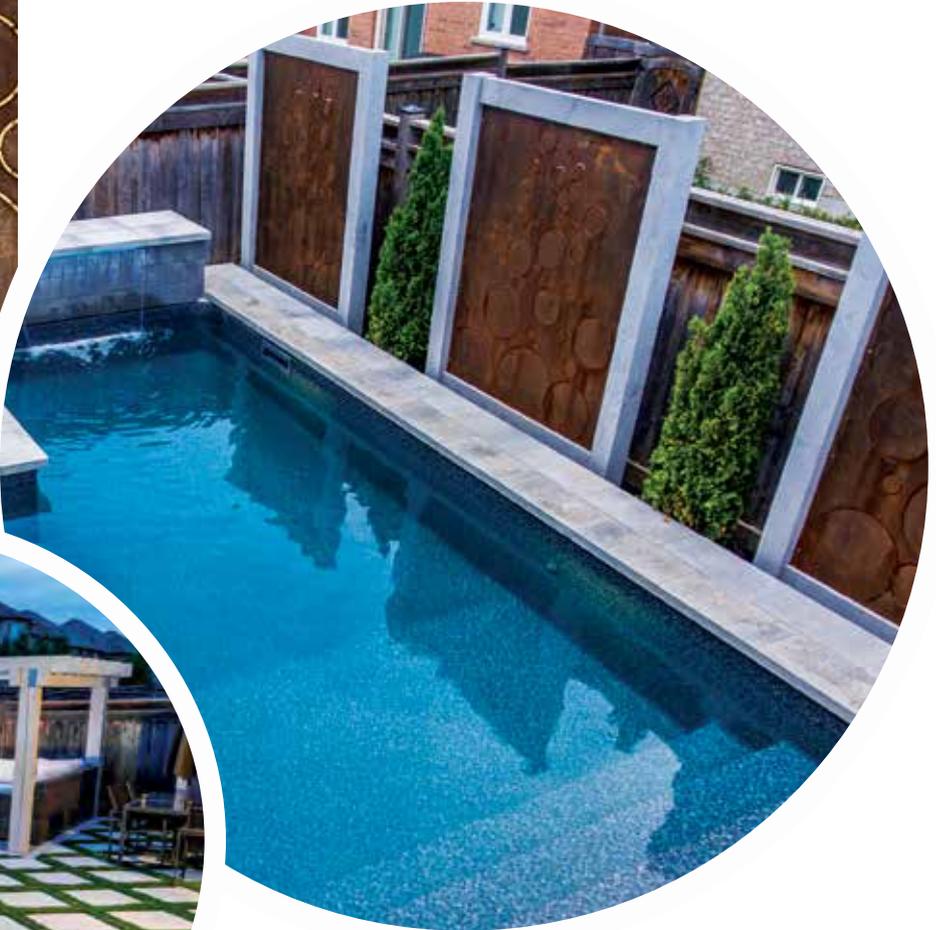


## Nature's elements

Landscape Ontario Awards of Excellence winner Land-Con of Concord, Ont., constructed this beautiful backyard using water, metal, and stone combined with natural plants, bringing to life a longtime dream for the homeowner.

Working closely with the client and designer, Land-Con created all of the features envisioned: a low maintenance backyard equipped with pool, multiple seating areas, water feature and landscape lighting. Large metal privacy panels cleverly hide the pool equipment. Pavers and turf were cut and laid out to create an eye-catching pattern surrounding the pool.

For inspiring ideas or to connect with a landscape pro in your area, use the search bar at [landscapeontario.com](https://landscapeontario.com). 



Carefully cut turf fills the area between pavers to create a unique pattern for this outdoor space.

# Welcome home

Gelderman Landscape Services of Waterdown, Ont., created this Landscape Ontario Awards of Excellence-winning front yard space for a recently renovated home. The clients wish list included a seating area at the front of the house, a walkway from the driveway to the front entrance, stone pillars to add height and define the space, and plants with year-round interest. Lighting and irrigation for the front yard place the final touches on the client's vision.

For inspiring ideas or to connect with a landscape pro in your area, use the search bar at [landscapeontario.com](https://landscapeontario.com). 🦋

Tidy hedges line the new walkway leading to the front door, while accent trees and armour stone add texture and colour to surrounding garden beds.

Landscape lighting adds drama to the nighttime gardens.

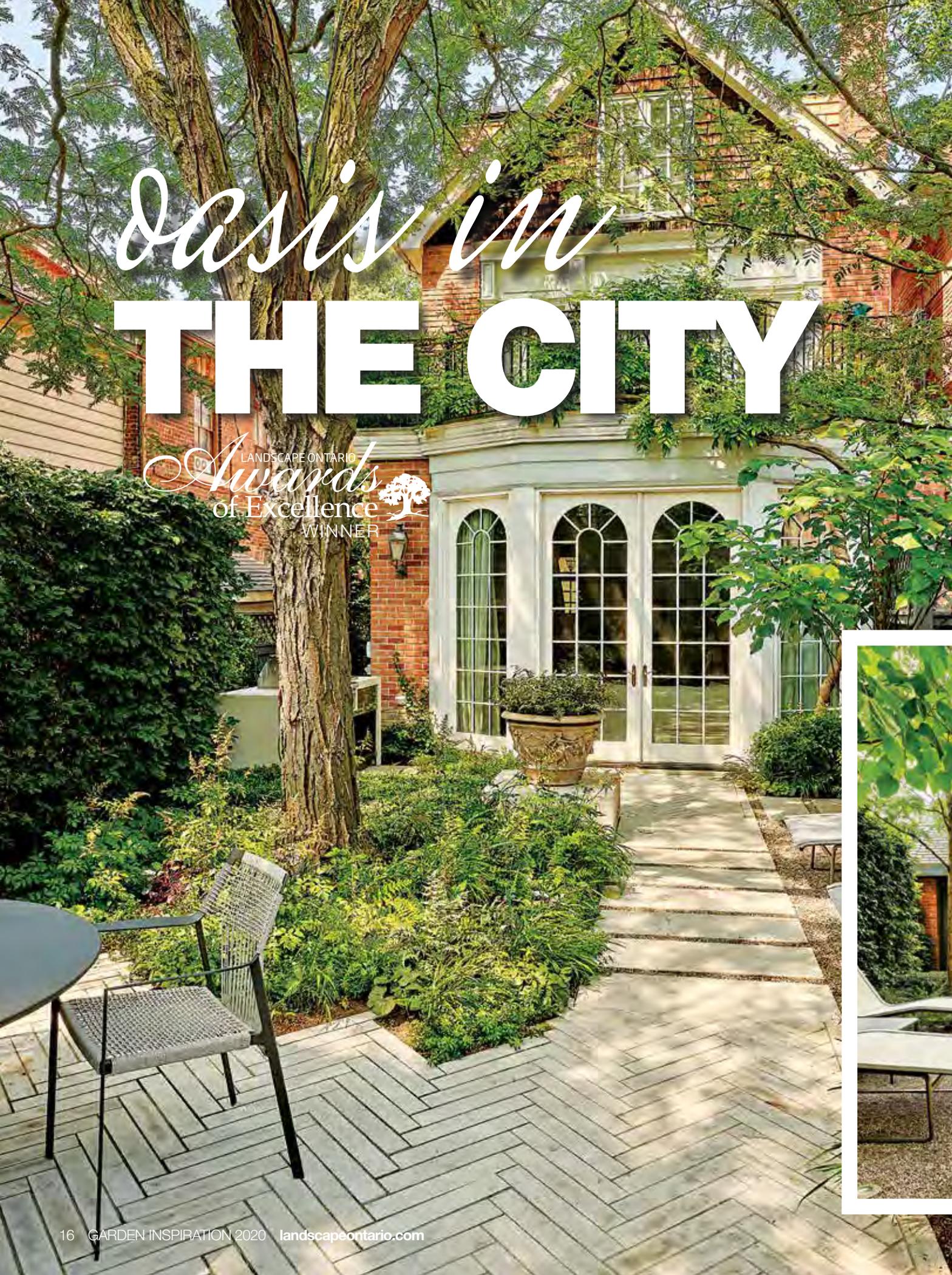


# Front yard FANTASTIC

LANDSCAPE ONTARIO  
*Awards*  
of Excellence   
WINNER

# *dasis in* **THE CITY**

LANDSCAPE ONTARIO  
*Awards*  
of Excellence  
WINNER





## Peaceful waterwall

Landscape Ontario Awards of Excellence winner Arbordale Landscaping of Toronto, Ont., created the minimalist waterfall below, cascading over Algonquin flagstone panels weighing over 400 lbs. each. A honey locust leaf pattern was sandblasted into the panels to pay homage to the existing honey locust tree. Massive Algonquin flagstone plinths were installed to support the heritage urns, which have been in the homeowner's family for almost a century, along with a custom, built-in barbecue. Dense plantings, including specimen redbuds, Japanese maples, honey locust and pre-sheared beech hedging, make you forget you are in the heart of the city.

For inspiring ideas or to connect with a landscape pro in your area, use the search bar at [landscapeontario.com](https://landscapeontario.com). 



A custom-built barbecue completes this garden in the centre of the city.



Plants add soft contrast to the symmetrical lines of the pathway leading to the one-of-a-kind waterwall.



# The landscaper





# pe of LEADERSHIP

Contractor Earthscape  
teams homeowner delight  
with inspired careers

▣▣ Listen to your clients' visions and objectives, and create thoughtful, innovative solutions for their landscape needs. ▣▣

This is the simple philosophy guiding Earthscape, based in Elmira and Toronto, a Landscape Ontario (LO) member since the company was founded in 2005. Sam Bauman of Earthscape says, "We were hungry to learn as much as possible about the industry, and taking courses through LO was an easy decision to make. LO has been a huge help to us."

Earthscape provides design, construction, lighting and maintenance services focused mostly on residential properties, working for clients that want the very best. "We want our projects to look beautiful for a very long time, so a maintenance plan is critical," says Bauman. "Some of our clients love gardening, so we help put a plan together



Technical precision, creativity and a love for hard work is at the heart of the Earthscape team.

Lucy Brubacher, one of Earthscape's newer team members, is currently enrolled in the Landscape Ontario Apprenticeship program. "I began working at Earthscape in the spring of 2018. I had spent nine years working as a personal support worker in long-term care after taking a program through the St. Louis Adult Learning Centre in Kitchener-Waterloo," says Brubacher. "As much as I enjoyed support work, I realized it was time for a change. I had always wanted to try landscaping because I love the outdoors. If I'm working outside, I'm happy. I grew up on a farm, where I learned my love of the outdoors," Brubacher says. "I had connections with individuals that worked at Earthscape, and learned of an employment opportunity with the company. I had no experience working for a landscaping company before, so I considered myself very fortunate when they took a chance and hired me!"

for them. Other clients do not want to think about it, so we maintain their properties on a weekly or monthly basis."

### THE EMPLOYMENT DILEMMA

Finding qualified staff to ensure excellent service is a real challenge for Earthscape, as well as other skilled trades. Earthscape casts a broad net when looking for new team members, considering all ages from Millennials to those who might want a career change midway through their working years. Even with proper tools and machinery, Earthscape recognizes there is no escaping the work landscaping requires, but believes a prospective employee of any age is likely to succeed as a team member if he or she values hard work.

Earthscape is big on education for all its employees. Field team members are encouraged to participate in the Landscape Ontario Apprenticeship program. The program can take three to four years to complete, but the value is well worth it. The designers with Earthscape are all graduates from the Landscape Architecture program at the University of Guelph.

"I'm now in my second year of working for Earthscape, in the maintenance department," says Brubacher, "and I love my job! I am signing up for the Horticultural Technician Apprenticeship Program through LO, and am very excited about this learning opportunity, and where it will take me in my landscaping career."



I'm now in my second year of working for Earthscape, in the maintenance department and I love my job!

Lucy Brubacher



## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

The Landscape Ontario Awards of Excellence program recognizes association members who achieve the highest levels of execution in landscape design, construction or maintenance. Earthscape has won more than 50 Awards of Excellence over the past eight years. Entries are selected when team members have that ‘feeling’ when completing a project, that it’s special enough to be an award winner.

They recognize that the bar is always being raised by other member landscape companies, which encourages Earthscape to continually better its own designs and construction projects.

Sam Bauman of Earthscape says winning an award acknowledges team efforts. “We have great pride in all of our projects, but especially the award winners,” says Bauman. “There was a lot of hard work to get to that point, from the design all the way through construction and ongoing maintenance. We like to celebrate together.” The awards ceremony is a special night for the Earthscape team; they share their success together and send different team members up to get the awards. Mark Schwarz, founder of Earthscape, stood firm since Day One that everyone should share the accolades of winning an award.

Says Bauman, “Winning an award feels like we succeeded as a team! All our hard work has been given the thumbs-up by the judges.” After winning, Earthscape shares the news with the homeowner. “Our clients love it,” says Bauman, “and we feel like we and the client won it together as a team.”

Yet despite all the recognition, Earthscape team members understand the next day, it’s back to work to start all over again, offering inspiring solutions for outdoor spaces. 🦋



## LANDSCAPE CAREER SUCCESS STORY

Craig Diefenbacher says, “Five years ago I moved into a landscape construction role with Earthscape. It seemed like a natural fit with my background of farming and machine operation. My Dad is skilled in many trades, aside from farming, which I believe contributed to my interest in constructing things and established my ability to create and visualize an end product. I receive a lot of satisfaction in seeing a job through to completion, and enjoy solving the challenges that arise during the process. Earthscape has been a great vehicle in growing my knowledge and skills in landscaping as well as my pursuit towards the highest quality while increasing efficiency.”



# TRIAL GARDEN



# favourites

BY RODGER TSCHANZ, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

2019 trial garden favourites from Milton and Guelph, Ont., sites.

## ANNUAL AROMANCE PINK NEMESIA



The flower form of nemesia resembles a small snapdragon, with two tightly-closed lips and a lower lip usually tipped in bright yellow. The bright yellow spot acts as a target for pollinators, allowing access to the nectar inside. Petals can range from shades of pink and blue to red, yellow and orange. In Aromance Pink, we have a biocolour flower, with the lower lip being light pink and the upper displaying dark pink shades. What really stood out in the trial for this cultivar was fragrance. Whether growing in the greenhouse or in the field, the fragrance was noticeable from three metres or more.



## ANNUAL SUNSATIA CRANBERRY RED NEMESIA

In contrast to Aromance Pink, the nemesia Sunsatia Cranberry Red has no noticeable fragrance. It does have an incredible show of intense red bloom throughout summer and into the fall.



**ANNUAL**  
**SUPERBENA SPARKLING**  
**AMETHYST VERBENA**

This verbena has a strong bushy trailing habit, which means it performs well when you are trying to fill in part-sun to sunny beds. It also works well in containers where you are looking for a colourful and vigorous spiller. Superbena Sparkling Amethyst has a two-toned flower composed of light and dark purple petals. This verbena bloomed consistently, well throughout the summer, regardless of weather conditions. On trial garden open house days, visitors chose it as a favourite.



This Genovese-type of basil is propagated from seed and has a strong upright columnar growth habit, particularly well-suited for container growing. It produces dark green glossy leaves and is noticeably slower to flower, by many weeks, than similar basil cultivars. Since flowering is usually associated with bitter flavour compounds in basil, this selection will produce greater quantities of culinary-grade foliage than others.

**EDIBLE**  
**EVERLEAF EMERALD TOWERS BASIL**



**PERENNIAL**  
**HIBISCUS CORDIAL BRANDY PUNCH**

Cordial Brandy Punch is a perennial hibiscus that is hardy to Zone 5, and produces large, 20-25 cm pink blooms. Perennial hibiscus plants typically die back to the ground after a hard frost and won't emerge again until very late in the spring. Be patient, don't give up on it! They start blooming in July and continue through until frost.

# new palette for SPRING 2020

Just like painting the inside of your home with the latest colour trends, Landscape Ontario presents the newest varieties in plants and colours to 'paint' your outside space and fill containers.

Visit your local garden centre specialist listed at [landscapeontario.com](https://landscapeontario.com) for all your landscape needs. Enjoy the many colours of new plants for 2020!



**ANNUAL**

## **Akila Sunset Shades African daisy**

Great for mass plantings and containers, these full, well-branched African daisies show off beautiful flowers. This new multicolour mix includes popular colours like yellow, magicians and rose-reds, plus salmon, apricot and orange shades.

**EDIBLE**

## **Bushel and Berry Perpetua blueberry**

Perpetua yields two crops of sweet and delicious blueberries. The first fruit appears in mid-summer, then the plant will flower and set fruit a second time in fall. Zone 4.



ROSE

### Our Anniversary rose

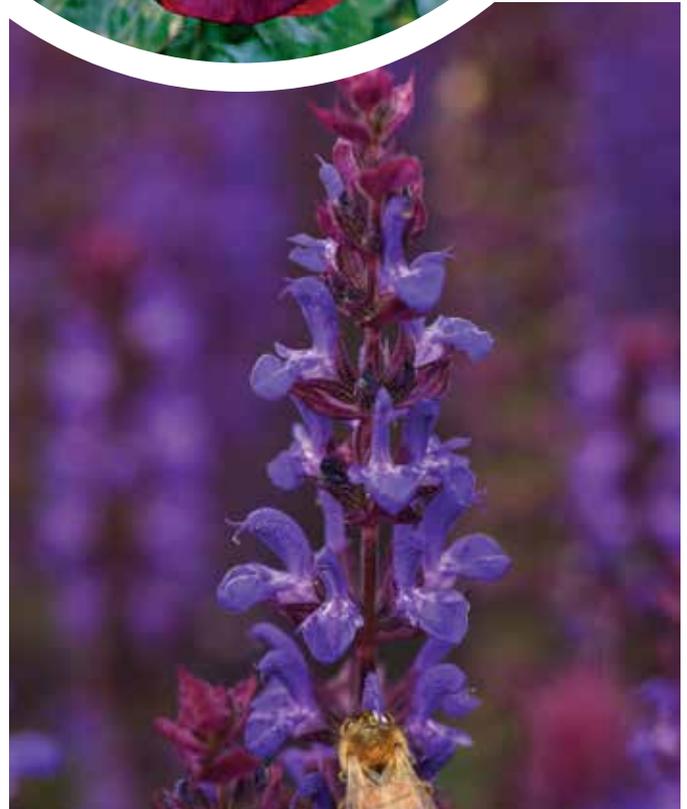
A one-of-a-kind velvety red bloomer that changes to plum purple. The high-centre flowers grow in large clusters and bloom freely throughout the growing season.



PERENNIAL

### Blue Prelude Japanese cat mint

A new Japanese cat mint that will flower for months in the spring and summer. Attracts pollinators with its fragrant leaves. Blue Prelude features large blue flowers on a compact habit in its first year; the second year, it will grow to three feet. Zones 5a-9a.



PERENNIAL

### Salvatore Blue salvia

This high-contrast salvia has black flower stems and deep purple calyx with deep blue flowers on long spikes. Cut back flower stems after flowering to encourage repeat blooming. Blooms late spring. Zones 4a-8b.

**ANNUAL**  
**IQ Purple Ice dianthus**

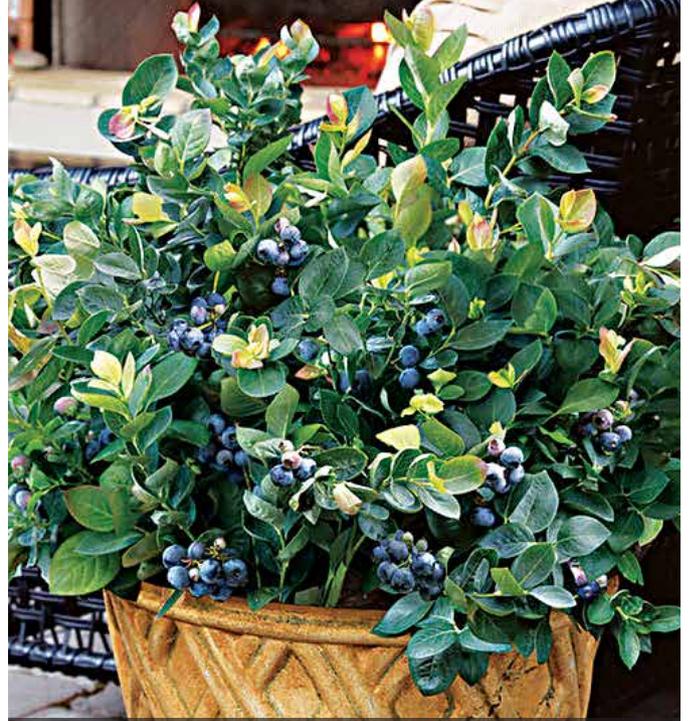
New to the IQ series of dianthus, Purple Ice has a compact habit and a dense canopy of flowers.



**PERENNIAL**

**Scent Early Blue and White Mix  
English lavender**

The next generation of Scent lavender, Early Blue and White Mix produce consistent and early flowers.



**EDIBLE**

**Peach Sorbet blueberry**

This blueberry is stunning with leaves that are peach, pink, orange and emerald green. White bell-shaped flowers will appear in spring, leading to an abundant summer crop of tropical flavoured, sweet blueberries.



**ANNUAL**

## Easy Wave Lavender Sky Blue spreading petunia

Lavender Blue Sky is a new addition to the Easy Wave series, which are fast growing spreading petunias that bloom freely all season in landscapes and containers.



**PERENNIAL**

## Solanna Golden Sphere tickseed

Big, bright golden yellow, fully double flowers on strong, short stems rise slightly above upright mounds of lush green foliage, and continue to bloom throughout the summer. Zones 4-9.



**EDIBLE**

## Mardi Gras Fun Pepper

The Mardi Gras series offers four colours that can be grown together in one large container for a patio display, or in garden beds. Plants continuously produce sweet, snackable peppers that offer the best flavor when their full colour is achieved. Available in Orange, Red, Yellow and Purple.



**SHRUB**

**Tianshan seven-son flower**

While bred in France, this new cultivar is named after the mountain range in China where the species is native. Clusters of fragrant, creamy-white flowers appear in late summer, with each whorl containing seven flowers. The blooms are followed in autumn by unusual purplish-red fruits.



**SHRUB**

**Iceberg Alley  
sageleaf willow**

Iceberg Alley is a native plant discovered by the Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Botanical Garden. The powdery, silver foliage of this small sageleaf willow adds texture and contrast when combined with other colourful shrubs. Zones 2-6.



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SHRUB

### Royal Jubilee ninebark

Royal Jubilee features dark purple foliage, excellent mildew resistance and a dense compact plant form. Zone 2b.



ANNUAL

### Goldilocks Rocks Improved Apache beggarticks

This compact beggarticks features extra-large flowers and mixes well in hanging baskets and upright containers.



EDIBLE

### Everleaf Emerald Towers Genovese basil

This dark green, glossy leaved basil is packed with traditional Genovese flavour, perfect for eating fresh in caprese salad or chopped fresh in recipes.





**ANNUAL**  
**Profusion Cherry Bicolor zinnia**

New to the Profusion series, Cherry Bicolor's non-fading colour blooms with a kiss of bright cherry and becomes more intense as the flower ages.



**PERENNIAL**  
**Serendipity ornamental onion**

This sport of Millenium shares all of the qualities that made Millenium popular, with the addition of glaucous blue foliage. Zones 4-8.



**PERENNIAL**  
**Alchemy Silver brunnera**

This vigorous selection impresses with showy silver foliage, as a wonderful shade accent plant. Use in containers, as a mass planting or in borders. Zone 4.

PERENNIAL  
**Snow Cone Forte  
evergreen candytuft**

A faster growing companion to Snow Cone, with smaller flowers and denser branching. Zones 4-8.



PERENNIAL  
**EveryDaylily Punch Yellow daylily**

This new daylily produces up to 400 two-toned pink and yellow blooms per season. Zone 3.



PERENNIAL  
**Audrey Light Blue  
aubrieta**

New to the Audrey series of aubrieta hybrids, Light Blue provides uniformity in habit and flower colour and is one of the earliest blooming perennials. Zones 6-9.



**SHRUB**

### **Matcha Ball ash leaf spirea**

Matcha Ball forms a perfect round ball of fern-like foliage in a fresh shade of green; the colour reminded the breeder of matcha tea. There is a hint of colour in the leaves and petioles that ranges from red to an orange-peach in spring, ultimately maturing to green. Zones 3-7.



**PERENNIAL**

### **Erysisstible wallflower**

The first-ever Zone 5 wallflower, the Erysisstible series includes Yellow, Forte Magenta, Tricolor (shown), and Sunset.

**EDIBLE**

### **Good Hearted Tomato**

Good Hearted is a compact cocktail tomato with a low mounding habit, ideal for growing in hanging baskets and upright containers. Heart- to pear-shaped fruits a little bigger than a cherry tomato with a blend of sweet and acidic flavours.





**PERENNIAL**

### **Spring Bell 2.0 bellflower**

The new Spring Bell 2.0 bellflowers have nicely mounded habits covered in vibrant blooms. New cultivars include White and Blue. Zones 5-9.



**ANNUAL**

### **Suncredible Yellow sunflower**

Blooming continuously from summer through fall on large, uniform, well-branched plants, this sunflower makes an outstanding focal point in containers and landscapes.





**ANNUAL**  
**Cabaret Good Night Kiss calibrachoa**

Good Night Kiss features a novel pattern with a star centre. Plants are well-branched with full centres, and are well-suited for hanging baskets.



**PERENNIAL**  
**Prima Angelina stonecrop**

Plant Prima Angelina in a sunny landscape location or use as an accent in mixed succulent containers. Its striking needle-shaped leaves offer a brilliant, golden-yellow colour with winter interest as well. Zones 4a-9b.

**ANNUAL**  
**Bloomtastic Yellow calibrachoa**

Bloomtastic Yellow features exceptional all-summer performance and massive flower size.



PERENNIAL

## Blackhawks Big bluestem

The foliage emerges deep green to dark purple in spring and deepens to near black by fall. Blackhawks provides height and colour to the garden. Zone 3.



ANNUAL

## Midnight Gold petunia

Midnight Gold is a basket-loving petunia with huge double flowers in a unique, first-of-its-kind novelty colour.



EDIBLE

## Cherry Berry Strawberry

The darker the fruit, the sweeter the flavour gets with these strawberries. From a deep red to verging on purple, this variety is hardy and high yielding.

**ANNUAL**

## Luscious Goldengate Lantana

A new addition to the Luscious series of lantanas, Goldengate's golden yellow flowers bloom non-stop all season without deadheading.



**PERENNIAL**

## Delphinium Light Blue White Bee delphinium

The Delphinium series is notable for a naturally compact habit and distinct colours. Zones 4-8.



## Night Fever Papaya Begonia

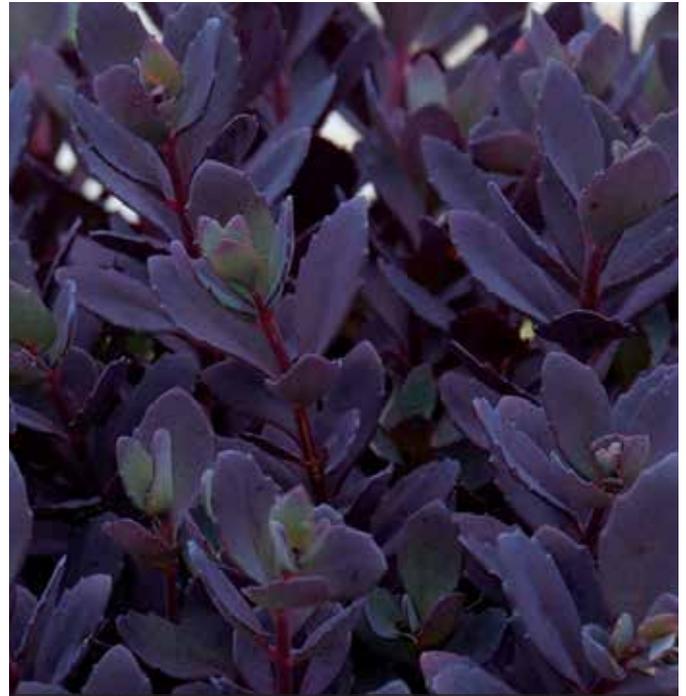
New to the Bossa Nova series, Night Fever Papaya excels in both sun or shade and has dark, grey-green foliage and burnt orange blooms.



**SHRUB**

**Little Lady lilac**

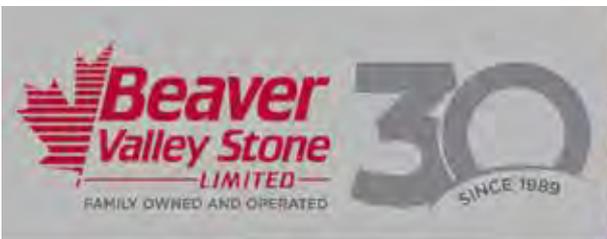
Little Lady combines the beautifully fragrant flowers of Miss Kim with a more compact, restrained plant that is nearly half the size. In late spring, dark pink buds open to lilac pink, and as it matures, the fresh green leaves will cup upwards. Zone 2.



**PERENNIAL**

**Sunsparkler Plum Dazzled  
stonecrop**

This stonecrop is dark purple foliage and large, cherry coloured flowers and flowers from summer to autumn. Zone 4.



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**ROSE**  
**Ringo rose**

Ringo has a dazzling visual effect in the landscape or garden with its yellow blooms, each graced with a bold red ring in the centre. As the blooms age they fade to white with a pink ring. Ringo can be grown on its own, as a hedge or in a garden. Zone 4



**SHRUB**  
**Pinkerella smooth hydrangea**

Strong stems hold bright pink blooms tall and really show them off. Great as an accent plant. Be sure to cut a few blooms for fresh bouquets or dry them out for dried flower arrangements. Zone 3.



**ANNUAL**  
**Sparkling Amethyst Improved verbena**

Large clusters of amethyst and white flowers appear early, then continue to bloom prolifically all season without deadheading.



EDIBLE

## Lemon Drop Squash

This unique, creamy-yellow squash with a small, lemon shape, can be picked at a very young stage, and is tasty grilled, sauteed or fresh. Grows best in-ground with soil that is moist, but not wet.



ROSE

## Pretty Polly polyantha rose

Pretty Polly is a compact rose that produces cuplike, double flowers. This new series includes: Lavender (shown), Pink, and White.



ANNUAL

## Madinia mandevilla

Mandevilla, a popular tropical vine, provides showy colour all season. New cultivars in the Madinia series are Red and Light Pink.



**ANNUAL**  
**Rockin' Blue Suede Shoes**  
**salvia**

Large, crisp blue flowers held by black calyxes are produced above the foliage, attracting all sorts of pollinators from spring through fall.

**PERENNIAL**  
**Boogie Woogie stonecrop**

Boogie Woogie is a summer-flowering groundcover perennial with cream margins that make the plant look bright. Zones 3-9.



**SHRUB**  
**Kanmara Blue bigleaf hydrangea**

Kanmara is a new generation of hydrangea with large blooms in unique shades, well-suited for containers, beds or borders.



**PERENNIAL**  
**Black Sea coral bells**

This shade- and sun-tolerant coral bells has attractive, shiny black foliage. Zone 4.

**SHRUB**  
**First Editions**  
**Marmalade potentilla**

Marmalade is a double-flowered potentilla, ranging from deep yellow in high temperatures to orange-red under cooler conditions. Zone 2.



**ANNUAL**  
**Imara XDR impatiens**

The Imara XDR impatiens series added new colours this year: Red Star, Pink (shown) and Rose.

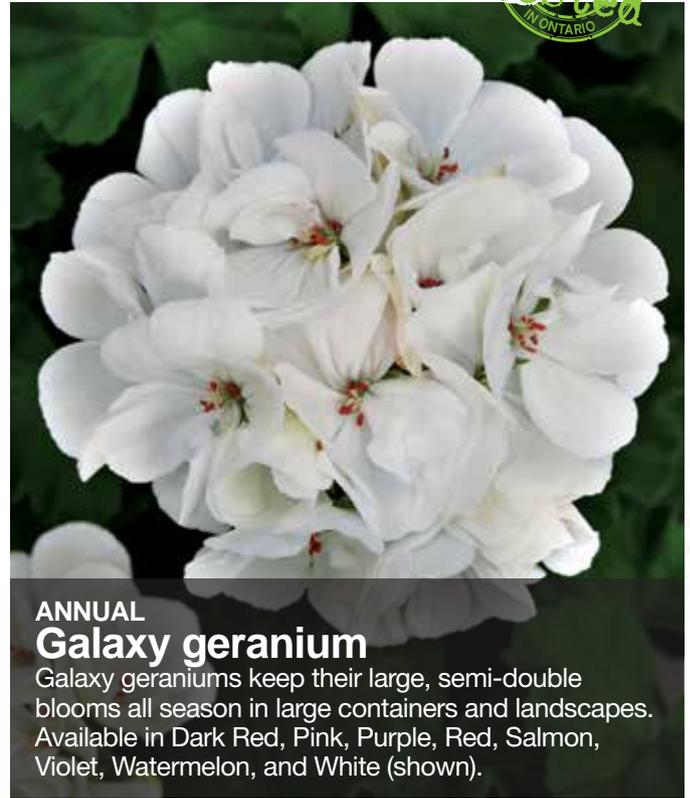




PERENNIAL

### **Cabrillo Compact Yellow cowslip**

New to the Cabrillo series, Compact Yellow is tidy, more compact, and earlier to flower. Zones 5-8.



ANNUAL

### **Galaxy geranium**

Galaxy geraniums keep their large, semi-double blooms all season in large containers and landscapes. Available in Dark Red, Pink, Purple, Red, Salmon, Violet, Watermelon, and White (shown).

ANNUAL 

### **Shortcake Blueberry spreading petunia**

Shortcake Blueberry works well in small pots and combos, but will still size up in the garden.



**ANNUAL  
Scentiment Sunrise  
tuberous begonia**

The Begonia Scentiment series flaunts large, unique, fragrant flowers, including Sunrise (pictured) and Just Peachy.



**Ask the experts**

Independent garden centres are the best place to find the new and improved garden plants featured in *Garden Inspiration*. Independents are the experts at providing large selections and hard-to-find specialty plants.

What if a selection is sold out or not available? Your local garden centre is where you will find professional staffers who can suggest alternates. Buy your plants from sources that understand the business of horticulture!



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**Mother's Day, Sunday May 10, 2020**



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# SELECTING A LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

## a guide for homeowners

### COMPARE AND DECIDE:

### A tool for RATING and SELECTING your landscape contractor

Use this chart two ways: 1. As a simple guideline to the qualities you should be looking for in a landscape contractor, or  
2. As a rating system to help you determine more specifically the suitability of a contractor you are considering hiring. It's your choice.

COMPANY A: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY B: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY C: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PROOF OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Landscape contractors are required by law to pay WSIB premiums on behalf of their employees in the event of a workplace injury. Hiring companies that are not in compliance makes the project owner – you – liable in case of workplace injuries. Ask to see a Certificate of Clearance.

**Mandatory: Rate 5 or 0 only**

#### PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

All contractors should carry liability insurance to protect themselves and their clients from the expense of any unforeseen workplace incidents that might cause damage to your own or neighbouring properties. Ask to see a Certificate of Insurance; it should state the name and address of the contractor, the fact the company carries a minimum of \$1 million commercial general liability, including coverage for bodily injury and property damage, and the effective and expiry dates of the policy as well as the date of issue of the certificate.

**Mandatory: Rate 5 or 0 only**

#### SUPPLIER REFERENCES

By ensuring the contractor regularly pays material suppliers in accordance with standard trade terms, you can protect yourself from creditor liabilities. Depending on the size of the project, it is advisable to obtain up to three supplier references. If possible, obtain references from suppliers of materials designated for your project, such as interlocking stone, nursery stock, timber, etc.

**Rate 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent)**

#### CONTRACT

A written and signed contract protects the interests of both homeowners and contractors. Contracts should clearly stipulate details such as payment schedules, start dates, and the complete scope of the project. Areas of responsibility, such as the provision for underground service locates, permits, etc. should also be stipulated. A good contract will also define procedures for the approval of change orders and costs of extras.

**Rate 1 to 5**

#### WARRANTY

The terms and conditions of the contractor's warranty should be clearly spelled out in writing and should specify if the workmanship is warranted and for how long and the length of the guarantee on materials. It is important to specify responsibilities for ongoing maintenance, such as watering, that may affect the warranty. This is especially important for plant guarantees.

**Rate 1 to 5**

#### CLIENT REFERENCES

Whether the contractor you are considering is capable of handling your project can best be determined by asking for references from up to three recent clients. Answers to the following questions will help you rate the value of the references:

**Rate 1 to 5**

- Was the work completed on time?
- Was there sufficient supervisory staff on site?
- Did the contractor return phone calls promptly?
- Was the quality of workmanship acceptable?
- Did staff conduct themselves in a professional manner?
- Was the site kept tidy throughout the construction process?
- Were extras dealt with according to the terms of the contract?

COMPANIES UNDER REVIEW

A B C

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**HUMAN RESOURCES**

The number of employees, including supervisors, should be adequate for the size of the project. It is important to remember a small company with one crew may be sufficient for smaller projects, providing they have adequately scheduled their projects for the season. A company's ability to schedule projects can also be determined through client references.

**Rate 1 to 5**

**EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION**

Determine the level of training and experience of key and supervisory personnel. Post secondary degrees, apprenticeship program participation or certification through the Landscape Industry Certified program are all indicators of skilled, committed employees. More information on green industry certification programs is available at [landscapeontario.com/industry-certification](http://landscapeontario.com/industry-certification).

**Rate 1 to 5**

**EQUIPMENT RESOURCES**

Contractors should have adequate equipment resources to complete jobs efficiently. It is important to remember it may be more cost-effective for certain or specialized pieces of equipment to be rented on an as-needed basis.

**Rate 1 to 5**

**SCOPE OF EXPERTISE (INCLUDING SUB-CONTRACTORS)**

Determine which specific disciplines are required for your project. The company should be skilled in all aspects or use reputable sub-contractors. These include disciplines such as:

- paving stone
- natural stone work
- carpentry
- demolition
- water features
- lighting
- irrigation
- site clean-up
- earth-work (grading, etc.)
- soft landscaping (tree and shrub installation)

**Rate 1 to 5**

**YEARS IN BUSINESS**

How many years has the company been in business under its current name?

**Rate 1 to 5**

**COMPANY PROFILE**

Does the company project a professional image? Are its representatives in uniform? Are its trucks and equipment clean and well cared for?

**Rate 1 to 5**

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

An accreditation procedure is part of Landscape Ontario's membership application process. Members of Landscape Ontario are required to follow a Code of Ethics and a Code of Conduct. Association membership indicates a company's commitment to professionalism.

**Rate 1 to 5**

**TOTALS**

**Tip: A perfect score is 65, any total less than 49 indicates a score below 75 per cent.**

COMPANIES UNDER REVIEW		
A	B	C
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**Hiring a professional?**  
For more tools like this, visit [landscapeontario.com](http://landscapeontario.com)



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Denis Flanagan

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