

**BC Landscape and Nursery Association
Environmental Stewardship Awards 2006
Recognizing BC's Environmental Leaders**

Activities carried out by the horticulture industry have distinct and diverse environmental implications. In recent years, environmental awareness and sustainable practices have become hot topics in supply and plant production, and landscape design and maintenance. Attempts to be environmentally friendly can often be costly and time-consuming when dealing with issues such as pest management, water conservation, invasive plants, pesticide use, and pollution. Unfortunately, faster, cheaper methods, although easier to implement, can have damaging long-term effects on the ecosystem and be more costly to society as a whole.

To recognize outstanding environmental leaders in BC's horticulture industry, the BCLNA initiated an annual competition called the Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA). Created in 2000 by the BCLNA Native Plant Committee in cooperation with the Native Plant Society of B.C. and Naturescape, the ESA was originally proposed as a means to increase public awareness of native plants and promote their use in corporate and public landscaping. The ESA quickly expanded into the program it is today, where different types of environmental stewardship are acknowledged. Environmental stewardship can be demonstrated through horticultural practices such as use of native plants in public areas, integrated pest management, management of riparian areas and wetlands, wise water and energy use, and special events in support of environmentalism.

With the 2006 ESA competition officially underway, be sure to let the industry and public know if your company has done something environmentally significant by entering this year's program. Any individual, company, or organization who maintains or promotes a sustainable healthy environment may be nominated, or enter on their own. Entries will be recognized for incorporating essential elements of environmental stewardship into their activities or a certain project, with the result of long-term, far-reaching environmental and cultural impact.

If one entry proves to be of exemplary environmental leadership, they will be awarded a winners plaque, a \$500 cash prize, and receive broad industry and public recognition. The cash prize and entry fees are generously funded by Peel's Nurseries Ltd. and Linnaea Nurseries Ltd.

For more information on the ESA, including last year's winner, and a downloadable entry package, visit www.bclna.com, click on 'Awards', and follow the link to 'Environmental Stewardship Award'. If you would like to receive an entry package via mail or have any questions, contact Sarah Vaughan at the BCLNA: 604.574.7772 or svaughan@bclna.com.