GREENING THE LANDSCAPE RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

NEWSLETTER

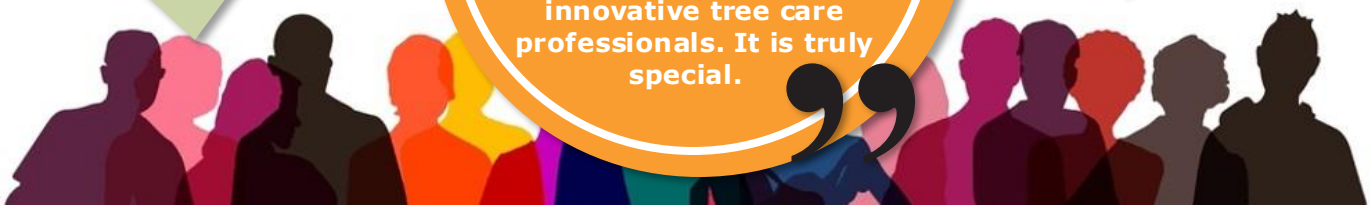
Spring 2025

Back in July of 2021, Vineland started the Greening the Landscape Research Consortium… with some hesitancy. We knew that we needed to address urban forestry research gaps, develop more avenues to share this knowledge, while bringing together an otherwise disconnected urban tree value chain, but weren't certain that this was the correct approach. We built the initial 3-year phase, as a pilot to test and refine the way we operated, with continual check-ins with our members to assure we were meeting their needs and updating our research focus to assure we landed on clear implementable findings to have measurable impact. It was an unusual approach and we weren't initially certain of success. However, by the end of the pilot phase, we had an overwhelmingly positive response from our members and the industry as a whole, hearing comments including:

"The Consortium has been an invaluable resource"

"We couldn't be more pleased that a dedicated group exists who are not only willing to invest in research, but also in cultivating a strong and open community of innovative tree care professionals. It is truly special."

"This is just awesome!"



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Ontario

Canada

We began this 2nd 3-year phase of the Consortium clear and confident in our mission, to:

Build the collective capacity of the Canadian urban tree value chain by developing and mobilizing evidence-based knowledge within our collaborative network.

It's been an overwhelmingly positive year since then. We've held:

1 FALL FIELD TOUR
to better connect with those in Landscape Contracting

2 ONLINE CONVERSATION SERIES
with world-famous thought leaders in Urban Forestry

1 WINTER WORKSHOP
to connect growers and tree purchasers on new varieties and better ways to diversify planting lists

1 SPRING WORKSHOP
connecting us all on our shared challenges and concerns

All the while, launching 5 impactful case studies on topics specifically chosen by our members. We are now nearing 30 members total in the Consortium and are thrilled with the recent additions of the City of Toronto, City of Brampton, Town of Pelham, Tree Canada, Forests Canada, Bartlett Tree Experts and Connon Nurseries. I'm incredibly grateful to lead this thoughtful group of caring urban forest experts and can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings.

Sincerely,

R. deJonge

Rhoda B. deJonge, PhD
Director, Plant Responses and the Environment
Vineland Research and Innovation Centre

Greening the Urban Landscape, Together!

Annual Workshop Highlights

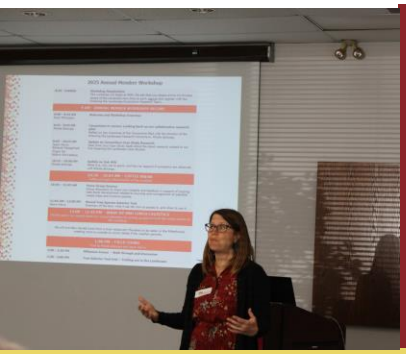
Vineland is proud to host the Greening the Landscape Research Consortium—an innovative network driving collaborative urban forestry research and solutions across Ontario.

At our fourth Annual Member Workshop, we were thrilled to welcome many of our dedicated and inspiring members—representing municipalities, conservation agencies, nurseries, and the private sector—both in-person at Rittenhouse Hall and online.

The day was filled with lively discussion and meaningful exchange: from consortium case study updates and an Oak Wilt risk overview to breakout sessions exploring real-world invasive species challenges. We capped off the morning with the reveal of our new Tree Species Selector Tool and a delicious lunch, followed by an outdoor walk in the Millenium Forest to test it in action in the afternoon.

This workshop is just one example of the bold, applied research happening at Vineland to support greener, healthier urban landscapes. The Consortium will continue to foster collaboration, share practical tools, and drive forward innovative solutions for urban forestry challenges.

Case Study Updates



Revitalizing Soil Health

Building on results from Phase 1, this case study will test soil amendments and biostimulants to improve soil health and tree establishment. Results will guide members on what products work best and how to use them effectively.

Technology for Mapping & Monitoring

This case study will evaluate mapping tools to help municipalities meet canopy and equity goals. Through tool assessments, municipal consultations, and field testing with Living Lab members, we will provide recommendations for effective and accessible mapping applications.

Urban Hardscape Tree Planting

By exploring technologies and best practices for planting trees in paved or compacted urban areas, the study will provide species lists, soil care tips, and tools to support long-term tree planting success.

Restoring Our Woodlots

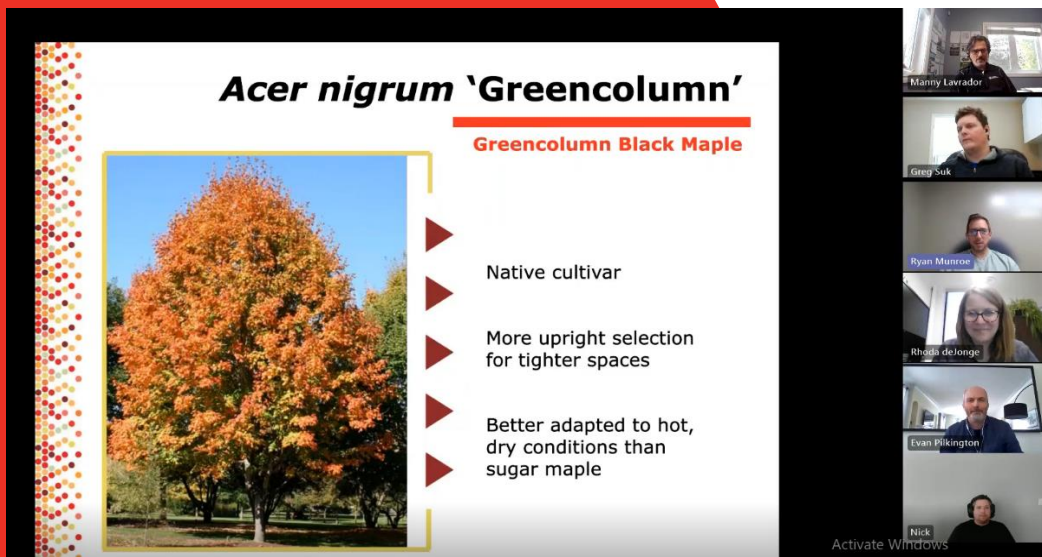
Focusing on invasives, this study will test new detection tools and restoration methods for urban woodlots and restoration plantings. The goal is to improve large-scale woodlot health and management strategies. The final guidebook will offer practical recommendations for detection, control, and recovery.

Benefits of Smaller Planting Stock

Can smaller trees deliver better economic/ecological value? This study will explore the costs, benefits, and challenges of using smaller stock in urban plantings—especially where budgets or space are tight. The study takes an urban value chain approach, identifying the implications of switching from larger to smaller planting stock for nursery growers, contractors, landscape architects, conservation authorities, and municipalities in Canada.

Tree-Sourcing Symposium
Building Stronger Connections

Vineland hosted the Consortium's first annual Tree-Sourcing Symposium on January 30, 2025. This event brought together tree nurseries, municipal buyers, and other forestry organizations for an engaging online forum. The event featured grower-led presentations on underutilized tree varieties and a dynamic Q&A session covering topics such as species selection, production challenges, procurement, and growing contracts. This peer-to-peer exchange fostered better communication across the value chain and supported more informed planning for future planting seasons.



Species Selector QR Code

Exciting news! We have updated Vineland's Tree Selector Tool, by bringing together tree specialists, software experts, and excellent feedback from those well-versed in the needs of our users. The tool has been tested by members of the Greening the Landscape Research Consortium—including many of you!—who provided valuable feedback to enhance its usability and functionality.

This easy-to-use tool helps everyone—from urban forestry professionals to homeowners—select the right tree for the right place. By considering site conditions, tree traits, and personal preferences, it supports healthier, more diverse urban forests. Accessible and user-friendly, it's a valuable resource for the whole community.

Our many thanks go to Landscape Ontario and the Canadian Tree Fund for their support in funding this much-needed upgrade, and to LO's volunteer tree experts for helping us improve the tree descriptions based on their lived experiences with these species in Ontario conditions.

To continue improving the tool, we invite you to complete a short survey (accessible via QR code) and share your insights.

Landscape Ontario
HORTICULTURAL TRADES ASSOCIATION

Canadian TREE Fund
TREE RESEARCH & EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

Vineland's Tree Selector Tool

Tree Selector Tool Feedback Survey

walker

Fall Tour

SAVE THE DATE

September 12th

Join us on **September 12 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at the **Walker Facility in Caledon** for conversations on urban forestry and a guided tour of large-scale composting, soil blending, and mulch production operations. **More details will be shared—stay tuned!**

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

Thank you to all our members for your continued support as we embark on this second phase of the Consortium. Don't see a logo below of someone you think should join our growing membership? Connect us (by e-mailing Rhoda at Rhoda.dejonge@vinelandresearch.com) and we'll reach out to see if we can bring them on board!