

## **Vulnerability of Urban Landscapes – Bill Kluth, Tagawa Greenhouses/Green Industries of Colorado**

Urban Landscapes are an important asset to Colorado. They provide the green spaces we need for relaxation, recreation, and decoration. They provide the at home back drop for our beautiful mountains. They are also important for recruiting business to Colorado through parks, open space and trails. They improve the value of property and are thusly part of the appreciation and tax base. Urban landscapes also provide noise reduction, safety corridors, improvement of air quality and are important part of the sustainability of our environment. Drought not only causes a browning of the green landscape in the short term, it will cause long-term permanent damage by weakening trees, shrubs and lawns giving insects, disease a foothold that may eventually kill and destroy long established landscapes. These landscapes may be irrevocable damaged and may never be the same in our life time. The Green Industries of Colorado have worked with other key players like Denver Water to develop Best Management Practices to help cities and communities learn the right amount of water to keep landscapes healthy without wasting water. Production greenhouses and nurseries are using science based technology in the delivery of water to the growing product. Colorado has the advantage of a leading Agriculture University in Colorado State University who has the expertise to be a resource in water decisions through trials and good scientific research. Urban landscapes don't have to be vulnerable when using the right tools to protect this valuable asset.