

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**TEXAS SMARTSCAPE™ NURSERY/LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY INITIATIVE
PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT**

This agreement is made between the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and _____ [company name], herein referred to as "Texas SmartScape™ participant" or "participant." As described in this document, the Texas SmartScape participant agrees to support and promote environmentally responsible landscape practices as identified through the Texas SmartScape program.

The Texas SmartScape program promotes the use of native and adapted plants in the landscape and encourages proper landscape design, care, and maintenance. **The ultimate goal is to conserve local water supplies, improve stormwater runoff quality by reducing the amount of water needed to maintain landscapes, and decrease the amounts of pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides used in landscaping practices.**

More information on Texas SmartScape program elements, such as the use of mulch and the promotion of drip irrigation systems, can be found at the program website, www.txsmartscape.com. The plant search tool is also available on www.txsmartscape.com.

One goal of this nursery/landscape industry initiative is for Texas SmartScape participants to use the Texas SmartScape name and logo in order to raise program awareness and make it easy for consumers to identify climate-appropriate plants and other related products. Participants may use the Texas SmartScape name and program logo to label any Texas SmartScape-approved plants and/or SmartScape-related products. Participants should ensure that the Texas SmartScape name and logo are used in a manner consistent with the purpose of the program. Participants agree to pay their own costs for program logo stickers, other promotional material, and any advertising that they use to promote the program.

NCTCOG reserves the right to revoke participant status from the Texas SmartScape initiative if the terms in this agreement are not met to NCTCOG's satisfaction.

APPLICABILITY

The following statements, if checked, apply to the Texas SmartScape participant:

- The Texas SmartScape participant is a business that has one or more locations in the North Central Texas region and/or West Texas region. *(Provide address information below.)*
Location 1 Address _____
Location 2 Address _____
Location 3 Address _____
- The Texas SmartScape participant is a business that sells plants to the residential and/or commercial sector.
- The Texas SmartScape participant is a business that provides services to the residential and/or commercial sector. *(Select applicable services below.)*
 - Landscape maintenance Landscape installation Landscape design Other: _____

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITY

The Texas SmartScape participant pledges to the following statements (*check all that apply*):

- Identify only plants on the Texas SmartScape list for the appropriate region as Texas SmartScape-approved. (The plant search database can be searched by region.)
- Consult the appropriate plant list regularly for plant additions or deletions and respond accordingly. If changes are made to the plant lists, NCTCOG will notify the Texas SmartScape participant. (*Comments regarding the listed plants or suggestions for additions may be sent to info@txsmartscape.com.*)
- Identify SmartScape-approved plants with the Texas SmartScape sticker or other signage provided by NCTCOG and/or the city or county SmartScape partner. (Stickers must be made from water- and UV-resistant material; inclusion of the www.txsmartscape.com URL on stickers and signage is preferred.)
- Not distribute leftover stickers or signage to other businesses.
- Promote SmartScape plants to customers via outreach such as posters, flyers, social media posts, etc.
- Encourage purchase and planting of climate-appropriate plants and related products.
- Promote and/or practice the following landscape design, care, and maintenance techniques:
 - Use of mulch (e.g., placing mulch in flower beds, pathways, etc.).
 - Efficient watering (e.g., installing rain/freezer sensors to automatic sprinkler systems, use of drip irrigation, hand watering, minimization of sprinkler runoff, watering deeply and infrequently).
 - Elimination or minimization of the use of pesticides and fertilizers; if applied, appropriate application procedures are followed.
- Not identify a practice as SmartScape-friendly if it is not promoted by the program.

NCTCOG RESPONSIBILITY

NCTCOG will support the Texas SmartScape participant as a partner in the following ways:

- NCTCOG will add the Texas SmartScape participant's name, address, phone number, list of services, and website URL to the program website's SmartScape-Friendly Companies list. (*Provide information below.*)
Company Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Services: _____
(*e.g., garden center, landscape services, organic lawn management, retail nursery*)
URL: _____
- With notification from the participant at least two weeks prior to the event, NCTCOG will post appropriate information about educational events related to Texas SmartScape on the program website's Events page. (*Email info@txsmartscape.com with event details.*)
- NCTCOG will provide the participant with an opportunity to participate in SmartScape "Train-the-Trainer" training. (Usually held once a year. Attendance may be limited. An email about the training will be sent in January.)
- NCTCOG will provide the participant with artwork for the Texas SmartScape logo and the annual "March Is Texas SmartScape Month" theme. (The logo artwork will be provided after NCTCOG's review of the signed agreement. The "March Is Texas SmartScape Month" artwork will usually be sent to the participant in January.)

CONTACT INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE

I, the Texas SmartScape participant, agree to the responsibilities that have been identified above.

Name/Participant Representative: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If the person to be notified about the opportunities mentioned in the NCTCOG Responsibility section differs from the above, please provide the appropriate contact information here.

Name/Project Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fill out and sign this form, then send it via email to info@txsmartscape.com or via fax to (817) 695-9191.

NCTCOG staff: Crysta Guzman, (817) 695-9231, cguzman@nctcog.org

Department of Environment and Development: (817) 695-9210