The South African Landscapers Institute

The South African Landscapers Institute is built upon a rich landscaping and horticultural history and clients of SALI members can be assured of excellence in landscaping design.

Since the time the first small cities developed in the Middle East 5000 years ago, urban centres have been predominantly plantless. City dwellers occupied houses or apartments that completely occupied the available space. Only royalty or the very wealthy indulged in gardens of any sort, whilst the more benign rulers provided open spaces in the form of parks – open to the public for recreation.

This model remained basically unchanged until the advent of the railway in the 19th century. For the first time in history the average city worker could choose to live outside the urban centre, as he could reach his place of work easily and relatively quickly by train. One could now have a house with a garden of some sort in the newly developing suburbs and commute to work each day. Although most homeowners created their own rudimentary gardens, this practice, never-the-less, led to the first self-trained garden designers.

It took another 150 years and the arrival of buses and cars for property developers to conceive of the idea of office parks on the outskirts of the suburbs. For the first time in history, places of work were combined with landscapes.

At this stage, South Africa’s experienced landscapers saw the need to establish a professional body to enable property developers – as well as homeowners – to have a surety of professionalism when appointing a landscaper to undertake a project.

In 1984, a group of experienced landscapers formed The South African Landscapers Institute (SALI). This organisation has a formal constitution, specific membership requirements and a professional code of conduct. SALI now has 146 members providing landscaping services throughout the country and abroad. Social interaction of all concerned takes place at regular meetings, conferences and workshops.

To view the Constitution visit http://www.sali.co.za

Mission Statement of SALI

The South African Landscapers Institute’s aim is to improve the image and standing of the landscaping industry. SALI promotes further training, higher standards, professionalism, and ethical conduct. SALI also provides liaison with business, training and government institutions, statutory bodies, NGOs, employer and employee organisations.

All SALI registered landscapers commit themselves to following the standards established by SALI by adhering to the Specifications laid down by SALI and by so

ABOVE: The SALI National Committee and staff at the 2010 SAGIC Convention and SALI Awards. From left to right: Paul Kirkby, Eric Cherry, Mary Vincent, Val Wamsteker, Sylvia Burger, Harry Dickinson, Debbie Shackleton and Doreen Aucamp. (Pic: Courtesy of SALI)

“How the nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value”

– Theodore Roosevelt, former USA President
doing, ensuring clients receive maximum value. They are entitled to display the SALI logo which in itself indicates their membership and commitment to the best quality of service.

**Code of Conduct of SALI members**

All SALI members agree to comply with the following Code of Conduct.

- Terms of business shall be clearly stated to each client by way of a detailed specification and quotation. Quotations concerning replacement of plant losses and liability for defects must be made clear to clients at the time of tendering.
- Sufficient trained staff, adequately supervised, shall be employed to ensure that contracts are carried out in accordance with the specification and normal good practice.
- All statutory responsibilities, PAYE, Skills Development Levies, UIF, Workmen’s Compensation, Regional Services Levies and/or any other must be met. Sufficient Public Liability and statutory insurance shall be maintained.
- Members shall take full responsibility for the quality of work and conduct of any sub-contractor employed by them.

**What clients can expect from a SALI member**

The client of a SALI member is expected to gain high standards of workmanship, plants and materials. He also has the security of knowing that at the back of the SALI contractor is a responsible Institute. Unhappy clients of a SALI member always have recourse to the SALI office where mediation can be facilitated.

**Training**

SALI has been the prime mover in promoting education and training in the landscape industry and works in close conjunction with the Pretoria Technikon, Cape Technikon and Peninsula Technikon, in this regard. SALI has also been pro-active in developing Unit Standards for training of landscaping staff. These Unit Standards have been lodged with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) for accreditation in accordance with the Skills Development Levy requirements.
2011 Winner of SALI Shield for Excellence in Landscaping

The Capescapes landscaping of the University of the Western Cape’s Life Science Faculty was judged the best landscape of 2011.

Glenn Norrie of Capescapes was responsible for constructing and planting the landscape envisaged by OvP Associates at the new Life Sciences Faculty at the University of the Western Cape. The project comprised paved and planted areas surrounding the new building, as well as a non-accessible roof garden above lecture rooms.

Particular difficulties of the site were working with the poor quality soils that occur naturally in the area, strong prevailing winds, and a sloping roof area. The soil in which seeds were planted had to be rendered more binding, so that it would not simply blow away before germination had occurred.

The University is next to the Cape Flats Nature Reserve, so it was essential that the plantings harmonised with the natural vegetation. For this purpose, with the help of the Horticultural Department of the

ABOVE: The plantings on the slightly sloping roof garden comprise of groundcovers with soil binding roots and small shrubs. (Pic: Courtesy of SALI)

ABOVE RIGHT: The plantings at ground level comprise of local indigenous species. (Pic: Courtesy of SALI)

MIDDLE RIGHT: Wide walkways with shaded seating areas take into account the needs of students. (Pic: Courtesy of SALI)

BOTTOM RIGHT: All plants selected tolerate dry soil and strong winds. (Pic: Courtesy of SALI)
University, attractive local indigenous plants were identified, and these made up the bulk of the plant material. A particular advantage of the local plants is that they are adapted to survive the harsh prevailing conditions of the area – dry soil and strong winds. Never-the-less, it takes a good designer to create an attractive landscape with a limited palette of plants.

All material for the roof garden was transferred by crane. The prepared ‘sticky’ soil remained in place on the slightly sloping site until the roots of the selected soil-binding plants were established. The plants are predominantly low-growing indigenous groundcovers and small shrubs. This ‘green’ roof helps to keep the building beneath it cool. And in all probability it is the largest roof garden in southern Africa!

The roof garden is inaccessible to the public and can only be viewed from neighbouring buildings. Never-the-less, Glenn Norrie created an attractive design. He utilised the air vents as focal points, and added a decorative path to create visual interest. Drip irrigation is used throughout the landscape.

The judges were particularly impressed with the soil preparation for this windy site. They regarded the landscaping as exceptionally attractive given the various demands and limitations of the site.

“A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children”
- Audobon International
The winners of the prestigious trophies were as follows:

- **The SALI Shield for Excellence in Landscaping (Overall Best Award):** Capescapes for the University of the Western Cape’s Life Sciences Faculty.
- **Rand Water Trophy for the Best Water Wise Entry:** Vula Environmental Services for the Berg River Dam Environmental Rehabilitation.
- **Best Environmental Landscape Work:** Vula Environmental Services for the Berg River Dam Environmental Rehabilitation.
- **Best Specialised Landscape Construction:** TopTurf Group for the 2010 FIFA World Cup Hospitality Project.
- **Best Landscape Construction with Design by Others:** Capescapes for the University of the Western Cape’s Life Sciences Faculty.
- **Efekto Trophy for the Best Landscape Construction with In-House Design:** Roomtogrow Gardens for House Hodgson.
- **Best Specialised Turf Construction:** Servest Turf for the Eye of Africa Golf Course.
- **Best Landscape and Turf Maintenance:** Servest Landscaping for House Oliver Tambo.
- **Bristle Cone Trophy for the Most Innovative and Original Use of Plant Material:** Earthquest Management Consultants for the La Plaine Rum Factory and for the original and innovative use of local edible plants, spices and medicinal plants in the landscape design.
- **Evergreen Turf Trophy for the Best Novice Entry:** Cape Contours Landscapes for the Rodwell House Hotel.
- **MayFord Trophy for the Best use of Colour in the Landscape:** GvH Landscapes for House Coronna.
- **SALI National Judge’s Discretionary Award:** Earthquest Management Consultants for their high quality landscaping, including plant propagation, over many years at various projects across southern, central, east and north-east Africa, as well as on off-shore Indian Ocean islands.
For 200 years we've been conquering nature. Now we're beating it to death

- Tom McMillan, The Greenhouse Trap

Earthquest Management Consultants for high quality landscaping over many years. Shown here is Kempinski Mokuti Lodge, Etosha, Namibia. (Pic: Courtesy SALI.)


Cape Contours Landscapes for the Rodwell House Hotel, Western Cape.
Rand Water's Water Wise Trophy

Landscapes that conserve water are recognised at the annual South African Landscapers Institute (SALI) Awards of Excellence ceremony.

Rand Water has been encouraging the installation of Water Wise landscapes as part of their Water Wise campaign, which started in 1995. To recognise professional expertise in this sphere Rand Water sponsored a Water Wise Trophy to be awarded to the landscaper of the most Water Wise landscape at SALI’s annual Awards of Excellence.

It is estimated that 30-55% of domestic urban water is used on traditional landscapes. Applying Water Wise principles reduces this amount considerably. This translates into benefits for the landscape owner in terms of cost savings and less time spent on maintenance. The Rand Water Water Wise Trophy recognises the importance of professional landscapers in supporting the Water Wise cause.

Winners of this trophy have demonstrated how Water Wise landscaping is applicable to all landscape developments in a wide variety of projects. Indeed, SALI member landscapers are now fully conversant with the techniques and principles that can be implemented to keep the irrigation needs of a landscape to a minimum, and such installations have aroused the interest and admiration of property developers throughout South Africa as well as in semi-arid countries abroad.

What makes a landscape a Water Wise winner?

When awarding a Water Wise trophy, the judges look for the number of Water Wise principles that have been utilised (see page 4). Innovative approaches score extra points, for example, using rainwater from a downspout to fill up a pond, or using pathways or ‘dry river beds’ to direct runoff into water features.

A Water Wise garden must also be attractive, fulfilling the design criteria of line, flow, rhythm, form, focal points, colour and function. So award-winning landscapes need to showcase Water Wise principles in a way that it makes people want to make their property Water Wise.

While a desert landscape of cacti and succulents would use very little water, its appeal is more limited than a more conventional landscape style. That said, if a landscape utilises a less conventional design of succulents that is so well designed that it could kindle a whole new trend in garden design and thereby promote Water Wise gardening, such a landscape would be a strong contender for the Trophy.

The landscape that illustrates how a conventional design can be made Water Wise in an attractive way also has a good chance of winning the Trophy. For example, many people want a rose garden. By zoning the roses into one area, composting well and mulching the soil, the rose garden can be made more Water Wise. If the rest of the landscape fulfills Water Wise criteria it may well be awarded the Trophy.

Landscapes that are totally locally indigenous and therefore highly water efficient, can on the other hand be dull – or exciting. It is the latter element that the judges look for – as well as the usual criteria – that make for an award-winning Water Wise landscape.

2011 Water Wise Trophy Winner

Vula Environmental Services’s massive, but hugely water efficient, revegetation project at the Berg River dam made this project a clear Water Wise winner.

It took Vula Environmental Services five years to revegetate the dam wall and adjacent area of the newly constructed Berg River Dam in the Cape. The area beneath the wall, where the construction team was based, was subject to massive earthworks, and there was huge disturbance to, and destruction of, the natural vegetation.

Maintaining the stability of the steeply sloping dam wall was an ongoing process. Planting and hydroseeding with a wide diversity of local indigenous plants was done from May to July over a 3 year period to maximise on the winter rainfall. Each planting hole contained moisture retaining Stockosorb. No additional irrigation is required.

The regional judges deemed this five year project an incredible success that demonstrated outstanding knowledge of the mountain fynbos ecosystem.
Previous winners

2010 Water Wise Trophy: Servest Landscaping for the landscaping of the Fairlands Office Park in Randburg, where Water Wise planning and plantings on a sloping site were outstanding. (Pic courtesy of SALI)

2009 Water Wise Trophy: Life Landscapes for Freedom Park in Tshwane where the use of indigenous plants contributed to a spectacular Water Wise landscape. (Pic courtesy of SALI)

2008 Water Wise Trophy: The Growing Business’s design of an urban garden in Gauteng demonstrated an outstanding application of Water Wise principles. (Pic courtesy of SALI)

2007 Water Wise Trophy: Real Landscapes for Lengau Lodge in the Waterberg, which showcased the principles of Water Wise landscaping in a natural bushveld setting. (Pic courtesy of SALI)

2006 Water Wise Trophy: Capescapes created an attractive water permeable area of low water usage indigenous plants around the parking area of BP Head Office in Cape Town. (Pic courtesy of SALI)

2005 Water Wise Trophy: Marina Landscaping created a delightful Water Wise indigenous landscape in the grounds of High Constantia Estate in the Western Cape. (Pic courtesy of SALI)

“The struggle to save the global environment is in one way much more difficult than the struggle to vanquish Hitler, for this time the war is with ourselves”
-- Al Gore
Adjust your lawnmower to a higher setting, as this allows the grass blades to grow longer, helping to fight off heat and retain moisture.

- American Water Works Association

Gold Awards

Category: Waterwise
- Vula Environmental Services: Berg River Dam Environmental Rehabilitation

Category: Specialised landscape construction
- TopTurf Group: 2010 FIFA World Cup Hospitality Project
- Greenacres Landscapes: House Pistorius
- Earthforce Landscapes: Spruitview Multi-Purpose Park
- Greenacres Projects: UNISA Pretoria: New Main Entrance
- Greenacres Projects: Water Feature
- Earthforce Landscapes: End Street Park
- Greenacres Landscapes: The Farm
- JKS Plantcare: Teichman Civils

Category: Landscape and turf maintenance
- Servest Landscaping: House Oliver Tambo
- TopTurf Group: Priority Zone
- TopTurf Group: Constance Belle Mare Plage Resort
- Servest Landscaping: Westcliff Hotel
- Servest Landscaping: Woolworths Distribution Centre
- TopTurf Group: Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace
- Earthquest Management Consultants: Plantation Club Phase 1A
- Earthquest Management Consultants: Kenwyn House
- Servest Landscaping: Garden Court Hotel, Sandton
- Servest Landscaping: Monte Casino Bird Gardens
- TopTurf Group: Beau Rivage Hotel
- TopTurf Group: Sugar Beach Hotel
- TopTurf Group: Harbour Town Golf Estate
- Burgess Landscaping: Liberty Building
- Everest Green Turf: Parry Golf and Country Estate
- GVH Landscapes: House Coronna
- TopTurf Group: Moruleng Sports Stadium
- Burgess Landscaping: Garden Court Hotel - Umhlanga Ridge.

Category: Specialised turf construction
- Servest Turf with Evergreen Turf: Moses Mabhida Stadium
- Servest Turf: Eye of Africa Golf Course
- Servest Turf: Metropolitan Golf Course
- TopTurf Group: Le Saint Geran Greens Renovation
- TopTurf Group: Morebule Sports Stadium
- Servest Turf: Mbombela Main Stadium
- Servest Turf: Peter Mokaba Stadium

Category: Environmental landscape work
- Vula Environmental Services: Berg River Dam Environmental Rehabilitation
- Servest Landscaping: Simbithi Eco Estate

Category: Landscape construction with design by others
- Capescapes: UWC Life Sciences Faculty
- Burgess Landscaping: Liberty Building
- Cape Contours Landscape: Rodwell House Hotel
- Greenacres Landscapes: Trevenna Office Park Buildings 2A-C
- Earthquest Management Consultants: Plantation Club Phase 1A
- Earthquest Management Consultants: Ephelia Resort
- Life Landscapes: Waverley Shopping Centre
- Life Landscapes: The Pivot
- Bertha Wium Landscape Development with Greenacres Projects: UNISA Pretoria: New Main Entrance
- Earthforce Landscapes: Maurice Freeman Park
- Greenacres Landscapes: Riverwalk Office Park
- Greenacres Landscapes: The Farm
- Landtech: DBSA New Gatehouse
- Peninsula Landscaping: Waterstone Square West

Category: Landscape construction with in-house design
- Rooftopgrow Gardens: House Hodgson
- Alan Dawson Gardens: House Pethick
- Cape Contours Landscapes: House Marcus
- GVH Landscapes: House Coronna
- Rooftopgrow Gardens: House Camps Bay
- Earthquest Management Consultants: La Plaine Rum Factory
- Cape Contours Landscapes: House Stephen
- Rooftopgrow Gardens: House Watson
- GVH Landscapes: House Snoeck-Henkemans
- Paarman Landscapes: House Truter
- Heaven Sent Garden Design: Vinimark

SALI GOLD AWARDS

- Greenacres Landscapes: Trevenna Office Park Buildings, Pretoria.
- Bertha Wium Landscape Development with Greenacres Projects: New Main Entrance, UNISA Pretoria.
“Lawn is a high water usage choice, so minimise grass areas on your property, as less lawn means less demand for water”

- American Water Works Association
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- Leslie Hoy, Rand Water
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- Leslie Hoy, Rand Water
“Avoid irrigating between 09h00 and 16h00 in the hot summer months when water lost to evaporation is high.”

- Leslie Hoy, Rand Water
The value of a professional landscaper

Business owners, developers, golf course managers and hotels increasingly choose to become environmental stewards.

With planet Earth under threat from climate change, urban sprawl and societal changes, the 21st century has resulted in a plethora of research on environmental matters. And, as never before, the public has become aware of the fragility of our fauna and flora, and water supplies. We now have a new consciousness of the importance of ‘green lungs’ in urban areas and the preservation of wetlands and ecosystems.

For example, research shows that a lack of shade trees causes cities to bear the burden of ‘heat islands’, which are 5°C to 15°C hotter than outlying rural areas. Streets, sidewalks and paved areas reflect heat and glare during the day and retain significant amounts of heat energy during the night. As a result, cooling seldom occurs in built-up areas. In towns in scorching hot areas of South Africa, such conditions are enervating and emotionally trying for both inhabitants and workers – and yet relatively easy to rectify.

Landscaping around hotels, commercial properties and factories is now acknowledged to be able to play a role in environmental preservation, as well as influencing physical and mental wellbeing. Property owners and developers are now aware of their responsibilities in preserving the environment to the best of their ability for future generations. Members of the South African Landscapers Institute are thoroughly proficient in the design and installation of landscapes that are environmentally friendly in every possible sense.

The environmental benefits of landscaping
- Grass, trees and plants reduce soil erosion. Erosion is a major cause of water pollution in ponds, streams, rivers and dams.
- Trees absorb climate-endangering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. One tree removes 12kg of carbon dioxide from the air each year.
- Plants fight pollution. Without the filter of plant material, there is an increased prevalence of dust that carries disease-causing bacteria and viruses.
- Rainfall on planted up areas permeates into the friable soil. It then replenishes soil moisture, recharges the groundwater supplies and/or flows into nearby streams, filtered by the roots of plants. Note that rainwater is clean water. Where soil is covered with an impermeable surface of paving or concrete, rainwater passes over polluted surfaces before entering stormwater drains. Stormwater requires...
expensive purification treatment to make it potable.

- A permeable surface serves as a flood control system, lessening the impact of runaway stormwater in urban areas.
- Shrubs and trees reduce noise pollution by up to 50%.
- Appropriate plant material, can lower the heating and cooling costs of a building by as much as 20% when correctly positioned.
- Trees absorb heat. They can absorb as much as 85% of the sun’s direct heat. One large tree can absorb as much heat as several window air conditioners and can lower temperatures by 5°C.
- Wildfire damage to a property can be reduced with correctly chosen and positioned plants.
- Planted areas provide urban habitats in ever expanding cities for our increasingly endangered wildlife species.

Sources:
http://www.wateractionguide.com/share5.htm
http://www.wateractionguide.com/share4.htm

A contract with a SALI member guarantees satisfaction

A client of a SALI member can expect to gain high standards of workmanship, plants and materials. Principal member landscapers comply with a SALI code of conduct. They execute work according to SALI’s Specification Document and use contract documents prepared by SALI.

The client also has recourse to a responsible Institute. The SALI office facilitates mediation if clients are not satisfied with work done. For more information call the SALI offices (see page 28).

- Code of conduct of SALI members
  - Terms of business are clearly stated to each client by way of a detailed specification and quotation. Quotations concerning replacement of plant losses and liability for defects are made clear to clients at the time of tendering.
  - Sufficient trained staff, adequately supervised, are employed to ensure that contracts are carried out in accordance with the specification and normal good practice.
  - SALI members take full responsibility for the quality of work and conduct of any subcontractor engaged by them.

- Specifications Document
  SALI members agree to execute work according to the SALI Specifications Document. It is scientifically derived and is now often being used as specifications in tenders.

To view and/or download the Specifications Document visit http://www.sali.co.za/source/content/downloads/specificationsrev072002.pdf

- Contract documentation
  SALI has prepared two contract documents for use by its members when entering into agreements with clients. The Memorandum of Agreement covers minor contracts. The Standard Agreement is specifically designed for use when an independent designer is involved.
Social benefits of landscaping

All members of society are currently cooperating to make South Africa a better country for all. In this regard the findings of a recent study that suggest that green spaces reduce crime are particularly relevant.

The study demonstrated that exposure to nature may reduce aggression and violence in inner-city neighbourhoods. Compared to residents living near barren areas, those nearer to green spaces were typically friendlier and more social. This in turn creates stronger community ties and offers more opportunities for a cohesive and cooperative neighbourhood.

The study documented the following:

• Landscaped settings in inner cities can help reduce the stress caused by everyday issues related to poverty and urban congestion.
• Exposure to green spaces can mitigate chronic mental fatigue, which can lead to irritability, inattentiveness and impulsive behaviour.

Reference:
http://www.wateractionguide.com/share7.htm

Life-enhancing benefits of landscaping

Considering the stresses imposed by urban life in modern South African cities, both on employers and employees, the benefit of attractive work surrounds with a tranquil outdoor area for lunch breaks would seem considerable.

A Gallop survey carried out in the USA in 1999 investigated the benefits of a garden as perceived by homeowners. Many of the findings are also applicable to commercial landscapes:

• Adds beauty and relaxation for the family, employees or visitors – 54.0%.
• Reflects positively on its owner – 53.2%.
• Offers a comfortable place to entertain, work or visit – 47.4%.
• Increases real estate value – 44.1%.
• Beautifies the neighbourhood – 43.3%.
• Provides a safe, high-quality play area for children – 36.7%.
• Provides an exercise area for pets – 21.3%.
• Helps purify the air – 19.9%.
• Helps cool the air – 17.8%.
• Provides a natural water filter to protect water quality and the environment – 13.5%.

Source: http://www.wateractionguide.com/share12.htm

Don’t blow it – good planets are hard to find

~ Time magazine headline, 2007

Don’t blow it – good planets are hard to find

~ Time magazine headline, 2007

“Only after the last tree has been cut down, only after the last fish has been caught, only after the last river has been poisoned, only then will they realise that money cannot be eaten”

~ Cree Indian Prophecy
Landscaping extravaganza

All eyes were focused on South Africa from around the world during the 2010 FIFA Football World Cup. Several of South Africa’s top landscapers and turf managers made sure the stadiums were brought to life through the professional setting of the pitch as well as the surrounding landscaping of the gardens around the stadiums.

Among the football stadiums and other sports and recreational facilities entered into the SALI awards were the Cape Town Stadium (Greenpoint Stadium) by Eco Creations, Soccer City by Greenacres Landscapes, King Zwelithini Stadium by Idube Landscaping, Mbombela, Moses Mabhida and Peter Mokaba Stadiums by Servest Turf and Landscaping and the Royal Bafokeng Stadium by the Top Turf Group.

Members of the South African Landscaping Institute were at the top of their game when it came to laying the pitch and landscaping the various football stadiums for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.
The following are SALI Member accredited suppliers to the landscaping industry.

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087-940-9617  
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014-576-1036  
erlima@global.co.za

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013-753-8300  
exotica@mweb.co.za

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Grass Factory  
Francois du Toit  
012-807-2586  
francois@grassfactory.co.za

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011-964-3236  
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Hydro Scapes  
Junie Human  
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info@hydrotech.co.za

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lapama@iburst.co.za

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paul.vonk@sakata-eu.com

Rain Bird International  
Larry Phelan  
011-958-1930  
flange@mweb.co.za

Remacon Products  
Silvio Ferraris  
011-393-5504  
remacon@telkomsa.net

Silk Road Arts  
Carol Adendorff  
011-450-3542  
silkroad@mweb.co.za

Stanler Farms  
Barbara du Plessis  
082-657-3716  
barbara@stanlerfarms.co.za

Sunkloof Nursery  
Roy Trendler  
012-808-5112  
roy@wildways.co.za

The Coir Institute  
Cassim Parak  
011-262-4262  
cassim@coirinstitute.com

Tshala Plant Brokers  
Gail Dreyer  
082-413-8997  
gail@tshala.co.za

Turf-Ag Products  
June Raitt  
012-661-4561  
june@turf-ag.co.za

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Peter Luiz  
011-917-0493  
viewpoint@webmail.co.za

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sgillman1@wol.co.za

Induli Wholesale Nursery  
Ashley Falck  
021-852-6187  
ash-induli@xsinet.co.za

Just Trees  
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021-871-1595 or 073-173-7865  
oliver@justtrees.co.za

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021-396-1066  
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Eric Cherry  
021-551-7010  
sales@newhorizen.co.za

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021-903-0050  
warwick@shadowlands.co.za

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colina@stanlerfarms.co.za

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grahamn@sltrading.co.za

Trees South Africa
Dag Williams
021-842-0003
info@trees-sa.co.za

Turf Ag Products
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021-551-0790/1
jacov@turf-ag.co.za

Kaytech
Rashad Hassen
083-252-8203
reshad@kaytech.co.za

Dunrobin Nursery
Leanne Lloyd
031-767-2320

Living Earth
Louise Fletcher
032-947-9224 or 083-655-3019
louise@livingearth.co.za

Smartstone
Kevin Quayle
031-569-6625
Durban@smartstone.co.za

Top Crop / Superlawn
Mike Kruger
033-569-1333
topcrop@superlawn.co.za

Turf-Ag
Adri Liebenberg
082-453-6304
adri@turf-ag.co.za

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C J M Growers
Carol Ackhurst
032-945-3472
carolack@iafrica.com

Controlled Irrigation
Des Berkeley
031-569-4984
conirrknz@conirr.co.za

Farmyard Organics
John Kidger
033-569-0680 or 083-257-9594
john@farmyardorganics.co.za

SALI Principal Members

The following are SALI Principal Member accredited landscapers offering their services in South Africa and abroad.

**GAUTENG**

Abacus Gardens
Harold Horn
011-795-2000
harold@abacusgardens.co.za

All Scape Services
Lesley Hoffman
011-460-1471
lesleyhy@allscape.co.za

Amaloba Horticultural Services
Godfrey Masegela
012-669-9922
amaloba@wol.co.za

Aquamulch
Manie Niemandt
012-808-3910
aquamlch@mweb.co.za

Bertha Wium Landscape Development
Bertha Wium
012-543-2038
info@bwlanddev.co.za

Bold Green
Renzo Derksen
012-807-0495
renzo@boldgreen.co.za

Cherrylime Landscaping and Interior Design
Leon Vorster
076-479-5089
cherrylime@ehkw.co.za

Chris Botha Landscapes
Chris Botha
083-600-8554
chrisbothalandscapes@gmail.com

Clark Horticulture
Peter Clark
011-886-2099
info@clarkhorticulture.co.za

Classic Gardens
Ian Buck
011-464-9033
info@classicgardens.co.za

Countryline Africa
Richard Wijnberg
011-021-5570
richard@countryline.co.za

Countryline Landscapes
Martin Moralee
011-021-5570
martin@countryline.co.za

Creative Landscaping
Jill de Villiers
013-744-0114
mwlands@mweb.co.za

Earthforce Landscapes
Jiri Pechous
011-021-3757
jiri@wbs.co.za

Earthquest Management Consultants
Derek Vincent
082-771-1409
derek@earthquest.co.za

Elite Gardens
Nicolette Botha
084-550-2820
elitelandscapes@workmail.co.za

Emay Gardens
Mary-Ann Brews
011-463-6101
emay@yebo.co.za

Evergreen Turf
Lauren de Saedeleer
011-959-1000
greenmad@globalex.co.za

Four Seasons Group
Natalie Mansour
011-763-2925
natalie@fourseasons.co.za

Gauffora Nursery
Peace Thabelo
011-976-3187
greenvalley@workmail.co.za

Gijima Landscapes
Chris vd Westhuizen
014-576-1411
gijimaland@mweb.co.za

Green Creations
Michelle Seddon
011-705-2783
michelle@greencreations.co.za

Green Solutions
Chris Bowden
011-467-3631
chris@greensolutions.co.za

Greenacres Landscapes
Peet vd Merwe
014-576-1925
greenacres@cyber-trade.co.za

Greenacres Projects
Peet vd Merwe
014-576-1925
glandscapes@gmail.com

Greenmachine Horticultural Services
Arline Kramer
011-699-8700
arlinek@excellerv.co.za

Highveld Horticulture
Tony Richards
011-608-4644
tonyrichards@globalex.co.za

Horticare
Shaun Alcock
011-024-2480
shaun@horticare.co.za

Incredible Landscaping
Nana Sekyer
011-783-9417
seknastar_s@yahoo.com

Jane Moseley Landscapes
Jane Moseley
011-805-1245
jm@moseley.co.za

Katanga Property Care
Arline Kramer
011-699-8888
arlinek@katanga.co.za

Landtech
Willem Meyer
011-964-1774
landtech@gmail.co.za

Life Landscapes
Ida-Marie Strydom
011-959-1000
ida@life.co.za

Mamorara Landscaping
Lebogang Ramoroa
014-566-4712
mamorara@workmail.co.za

Masterfull Maintenance
Ryan Brown
011-462-5960
ryan@masterfull.co.za

Over the Garden Wall
Mia Marsay
012-664-1922
gardenwall@intekom.co.za

Plant Elite
Dina Lamprecht
082-444-2122
info@plantelite.co.za

Rothe Plantscapers
Colson Mukwevho
011-462-6010
colson@rothescapers.co.za

RSA Landscaping
Jaco Swanepoel
011-025-2010
jaco@rsalandscaping.co.za

Servest Landscaping
Miki Rowmonth
011-796-1800
mikanik@servest.co.za

Sikga Investments
Ivy Dibete
011-391-3322
idebete@gmail.com

Sinako Investments
Sandile Ndandani
011-908-5760
zule@mtnloaded.co.za

Sedibang-Emfuleni
Mike Lepole
06-421-4716
mikelepole@telkomsa.net

The Growing Business
Anton Du Plessis
012-549-1856
anton@thegrowingbusiness.co.za

Top Turf Group
Paul Kirkby
011-457-1700
paul@topturf.co.za

Tswellapele Plants
Jenneth Prinsloo
011-665-2819
jenneth@plantwise.co.za

WBHO Golf
Gustav Putter
011-321-7360
gustavp@wbho.co.za

**WESTERN CAPE**

Alan Dawson Gardens
Alan Dawson
021-762-9595
info@alandawsongardens.co.za

Countryline Africa
Richard Wijnberg
011-021-5570
richard@countryline.co.za

Countryline Landscapes
Martin Moralee
011-021-5570
martin@countryline.co.za

Creative Landscaping
Jill de Villiers
013-744-0114
mwlands@mweb.co.za

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Jiri Pechous
011-021-3757
jiri@wbs.co.za

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Derek Vincent
082-771-1409
derek@earthquest.co.za

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Nicolette Botha
084-550-2820
elitelandscapes@workmail.co.za

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Mary-Ann Brews
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Chris vd Westhuizen
014-576-1411
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Michelle Seddon
011-705-2783
michelle@greencreations.co.za

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Chris Bowden
011-467-3631
chris@greensolutions.co.za

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Peet vd Merwe
014-576-1925
greenacres@cyber-trade.co.za

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Peet vd Merwe
014-576-1925
glandscapes@gmail.com

Greenmachine Horticultural Services
Arline Kramer
011-699-8700
arlinek@excellerv.co.za

Horticare
Shaun Alcock
011-024-2480
shaun@horticare.co.za

Incredible Landscaping
Nana Sekyer
011-783-9417
seknastar_s@yahoo.com

Jane Moseley Landscapes
Jane Moseley
011-805-1245
jmoseley@globalex.co.za

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Arline Kramer
011-699-8888
arlinek@katanga.co.za

Landtech
Willem Meyer
011-964-1774
landtech@gmail.co.za

Life Landscapes
Ida-Marie Strydom
011-959-1000
idamarie.strydom@gmail.com

Mamorara Landscaping
Lebogang Ramoroa
014-566-4712
mamorara@workmail.co.za

Masterfull Maintenance
Ryan Brown
011-462-5960
ryan@masterfull.co.za

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Mia Marsay
012-664-1922
gardenwall@intekom.co.za

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Dina Lamprecht
082-444-2122
info@plantelite.co.za

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Colson Mukwevho
011-462-6010
colson@rothescapers.co.za

RSA Landscaping
Jaco Swanepoel
011-025-2010
jaco@rsalandscaping.co.za

Servest Landscaping
Miki Rowmonth
011-796-1800
mikanik@servest.co.za

Sikga Investments
Ivy Dibete
011-391-3322
idebete@gmail.com

Sinako Investments
Sandile Ndandani
011-908-5760
zule@mtnloaded.co.za

Sedibang-Emfuleni
Mike Lepole
06-421-4716
mikelepole@telkomsa.net

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Anton Du Plessis
012-549-1856
anton@thegrowingbusiness.co.za

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Paul Kirkby
011-457-1700
paul@topturf.co.za

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Jenneth Prinsloo
011-665-2819
jenneth@plantwise.co.za

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Gustav Putter
011-321-7360
gustavp@wbho.co.za

**SALENCIAL MEMBERS**

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