

# Oregon State University Extension Service – Lane County

## SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  Certification

### 1. Water Efficiently (Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_)

- 4 Design a water efficient landscape that needs very little water, if any, after establishment (xeriscape). Must be entire landscape for 4 points. *Or*
- 2 Design waterwise landscape areas that do not need water after plants are established.
- 1 **Group plants** in the landscape by irrigation need.
- 2 Create a **water budget** for the landscape with landscape water budget worksheet.
- 2 In Western Oregon **water 2or 3 times a week** applying 1” per week in July-August-September, **or use** EWEB’s evapotranspiration rate system ([www.eweb.org](http://www.eweb.org)) calibrating your sprinklers with their water gauge and water at the optimum times per OSU & EWEB.
- 2 Use a rain gauge to track natural irrigation and adjust the total to be applied by watering systems.
- 2 Start and stop irrigation in a timely manner: not before the Spring rains stop and not after the Fall rains begin.
- 2 Use drip, micro-sprinkler, or soaker hoses wherever possible.

### 2. Water Resources (Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_)

- 2 Use groundcovers or mulch on thinly vegetated areas to **reduce erosion**.
- 2 Use **porous surfaces** for walkways, patios, and driveways.
- 2 **Collect** and use **rainwater** to irrigate plants with rain barrels or direct downspouts to drain to the lawn, plant beds or containment areas away from foundations. (Check city code.).
- 2 **Create swales, rain landscapes** and terraces to catch or filter rainfall. (Check with city.)
- 1 **Pick up after pets** to reduce bacteria and nutrient pollution in storm drain systems.
- 1 **Clean up automobile spills** and leaks with cat litter or other absorbent material. Discard in the trash.
- 1 **Sweep** grass clippings, fertilizer, and soil from driveways or street onto the lawn.
- 1 **Remove trash, leaves and landscape litter** from street gutters and/or compost or discard in the trash.
- 1 **If using fertilizers** or pesticides, don’t apply within 48 hours of a **rain storm**.
- 3 Establish a 30 to 60 foot “**chemical-free**” zone along your riparian area.
- 3 **Remove invasive** and/or exotic plants in entire garden including riparian areas, ponds, water gardens, and streams.
- 3 Establish or maintain *an entire border of low maintenance native* plants between your lawn and the stream side to absorb nutrients and hold the soil during times of high water.



- 2 Establish or maintain *an entire* border with **some low maintenance native** plants between your lawn and the stream side to absorb nutrients and hold the soil during times of high water.
- 1 Establish or maintain *an entire* border between your lawn and the stream side to absorb nutrients and hold the soil during times of high water.

**3. Right Plant-Right Place (Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_)**

- 3 Create landscapes with **drought tolerant areas** on the perimeter and next to the house.
- 2 Place plants, such as vegetables which require more moisture, close to hose spigots but away from house walls.
- 2 Use **all native, water-wise or xeriscape plants or**
- 1 Use **some native, water-wise or xeriscape plants.**
- 1 Use deciduous **trees on south and west** exposures to shade your home in summer and allow solar heating in winter.
- 3 **Preserve native trees** when building on a new site. Maintain an undisturbed area under the tree out to at least the drip line.
- 2 Ensure the landscape does not contain plants identified by OR Department of Agriculture and/or the Native Plant Society of OR as **invasive** (English Ivy, Butterfly bush, etc.). Replace problem plants with low maintenance natives or non-natives. Give 2 examples:  
 Problem plant \_\_\_\_\_ Replacement plant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Problem plant \_\_\_\_\_ Replacement plant \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Healthy Gardens (Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_)**

- 5 Use **IPM** (Integrated Pest Management) techniques to control pests, such as pulling weeds by hand for small weed infestations, pruning to open plants, hand removing insects, sanitation (disposing of infected plant material correctly), and planting disease resistant plant selections.
- 1 Allow beneficial weeds, such as dandelions, to bloom for bee food before pulling.
- 2 Check your landscape weekly for **signs of insects and/or diseases.**
- 4 **Identify 4 beneficial** insects that provide natural control of harmful pests. List them below:  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 **Know primary pests** for your plants and when to target these pests. Give examples:  
 1. Pest \_\_\_\_\_ Plant \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Pest \_\_\_\_\_ Plant \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 **Inventory** your pesticides/herbicides. (Make a list for personal use.)
- 2 Use environmentally **friendly pesticides/herbicides** such as insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils.
- 2 **Store pesticides/herbicides** in a water tight container away from kids and out of the rain. Label sprayers for herbicide and pesticide use. Never leave sprayers with pesticides/herbicides still in them.
- 2 Use **fewer pesticides/herbicides** correctly as needed.
- 1 **Take old pesticides/herbicides** to Lane County Waste Management (541-682-4120)

**5. Lawns**

**(Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_)**

- 3 **Reduce lawn** area by 200 square feet and replace with an edible landscape of vegetables, orchard or shrubs and vines.
- 2 Replace lawn with non-edible landscapes, such as flower garden, rock or other landscape.
- 3 Plant an “**ecolawn**”.
- 3 Keep green only a portion of the lawn, letting the rest dry out in summer.
- 2 **Mow lawns at proper height.** Mow Bentgrass 1”, Perennial rye 2”, fescue 2”.
- 2 **Recycle grass clippings** by leaving them on the lawn. Use a mulching mower, if possible.
- 2 **Fertilize only enough to maintain** healthy lawns, using only natural, **organic** or other **slow release** lawn fertilizers.
- 1 Use **non-combustion leaf blowers, hedge clippers** and mowers (reel mower) when possible.

**6. Mulch and Compost**

**(Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_)**

- 2 Create and maintain a **compost pile** with yard trimmings, leaves and kitchen scraps.
- 2 Use compost to create **healthy soil** and to promote hardier plants.
- 3 Maintain a 2-3” **layer of organic mulch** over **ALL** tree roots and shrubs, and over **ALL** plant beds, while leaving a 3” space between plant stems or trunks and the mulch around the plant.
- 2 Maintain a 2-3” **layer of organic mulch** over **SOME** tree roots and shrubs, and over **SOME** plant beds, while leaving a 3” space between plant stems or trunks and the mulch around the plant.
- 2 Use your **leaves or conifer needles** as mulch to build healthy soils.
- 2 Use City of Eugene or Springfield or neighbors’ leaves in your yard for compost or mulch.
- 1 Create **self mulching areas** under all trees and shrubs where leaves can remain.
- 1 Use by-product mulches like fir bark, recycled mulches, or tree trimmers’ mulch.

**7. Wildlife**

**(Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_)**

- 2 **Plant vines, shrubs, and trees** to provide cover, nesting sites and food for native birds, pollinators and other positive wildlife. List examples:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Provide a **water source** such as a birdbath or small pond for **wildlife**.
- 1 Provide **wildlife shelters** such as a bat house, bird house, or brush pile.
- 3 **Identify** four specific kinds of **wildlife** (birds, reptiles, mammals, insects) that live in or visit your yard. List them below:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ (40 points necessary to certify)

EC 1533 Basic Design Concepts for Sustainable Landscapes

EC 1535 Hardscapes for Sustainable Landscapes: Patios, Decks, Walkways, and Driveways

- EC 1561 Improving Landscape Soils with Organic Matter
- EC 1534 Plant Selection for Sustainable Landscapes
- EC 1531 Conserving Water in the Landscape: Landscape and Lawn Care
- EC 1577 Landscaping with Oregon Native Plants West of the Cascades
- EC 1521 Maintaining a Healthy Lawn in Western Oregon
- EC 1440 Deer-Resistant Ornamental Plants
- EC 1438 Selecting, Planting, and Caring for a New Tree
- EC 1505 Southwestern Oregon Tree Selection Guide for Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties
- PNW 590 Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes: Selecting Plants That May Reduce Your Risk from Wildfire
- EC 1541 The Wildlife Landscape: Attract Hummingbirds to Your Landscape
- EC 1532 Landscaping with Fewer Pesticides: Using Integrated Pest Management
- PNW 550 Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Landscape
- EM 8742 Sustainable Landscaping: The Oregon–Washington Master Landscaper Handbook

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