

MTNA Yard Certification Program

“Easy on the Earth” Garden

In the “Easy on the Earth” garden, organic gardening and naturescaping principles are applied. No synthetic pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) or ammonia based fertilizers are used. Noxious and invasive plants are removed from the yard, and a portion of your garden is planted with natives.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Day: _____ Evening _____
Email: _____

Identification and removal of noxious weeds:

- Learn the names of the plants in your yard
- Look at the state noxious weed list at;
http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/weed_weedlistcommon.shtml
- Use Google Image Search if you need additional pictures to confirm an id
- Remove and replace any listed plants (preferably with natives
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/Go-Native/index.htm>)

Waste Reduction and Resource Conservation (choose 6)

- Composting or vermicomposting (composting with worms)
- Using recycled content materials in landscaping or garden amenities where possible
- Borrowing or renting rarely used equipment
- Using a manual or electric mower
- Using other manual or electric tools
- Capturing rain water by diverting downspouts into rain barrels
- Using drip irrigation or soaker hoses for bed areas
- Removing as much lawn as possible and replacing with a diversity of plants
- Landscaping the hottest portions of your yard with drought tolerant plants
- Plant trees for shade or wind break to lower home energy needs

Elimination of synthetic pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) (all that apply)

- Reduce Stress
 - Improve soils with amendments like compost; many weeds hate good soil
 - Mow grass high (3”); cut only when dry, keep lawnmower blades sharp
 - Infrequent, deep watering of lawns and beds to encourage root penetration (water during cool times of day, very early a.m. is best, avoid overhead watering)

Weed Control

- Cover all bare soil with deep mulch or groundcover plants
- Remove weeds by hand
- Spot control persistent problems with organic products

Insect Control

- Increase predator populations (ladybugs, praying mantis, etc)
- Manual removal of pests
- Traps
 - Spot treat infestations to avoid killing beneficial insects with pests
 - Use organic products like insecticidal soap, diatomaceous earth, etc.
 - Research to choose appropriate control method for specific pests. Always start with the least toxic alternative

Fungus Control

- Match plant with appropriate planting site
- Baking soda (to 1 gallon of water add 1 tablespoon baking soda and 2.5 tablespoons of fine-grade horticultural oil, spray on affected plants)
- Space plants to allow ample air circulation
- Avoid overhead watering

Elimination of Synthetic Ammonia-Based fertilizers (choose 4)

Try these safer alternatives:

- Leave grass clippings on lawn
- Compost or liquid compost to replace depleted nutrients
- Organic (slow-release) fertilizers
- Use nitrogen fixing cover crops
- Microbial inoculants (like soil microrhiza)
- Natural minerals for specific soil deficiencies