

# MTNA Yard Certification Program

## “Less is More” Garden

In the “Less is More” garden, lawn and garden practices which reduce waste and help build healthy soils are emphasized. Fertile, healthy soils help plants survive stress, reducing requirements for synthetic pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) and ammonia based fertilizers. When pesticides are applied the least toxic alternative is chosen. Noxious and invasive plants are removed from the yard.

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](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 4)

- 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

### Reduction or 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 when possible

### 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. Only use synthetic pesticides as a last resort

### 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

### **Reduction of Synthetic Ammonia-Based fertilizers (choose 3)**

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