

ecoPRO Sustainable Landscape Professional Certification

REQUIRED READING LIST, SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS, & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

This document details the following:

1. **Required Reading List** for the ecoPRO certification training and exam: All required readings are found in the ecoPRO Required Readings, Version 2b booklet (for purchase through <https://ecoprocertified.wordpress.com/>); some of the readings can also be found online. Please read the information PRIOR to attending the training and/or taking the exam. Most of the certification exam is based on information from these readings.
2. **Supplemental Study Materials:** Materials that support the Required Reading List and are highly recommended as supplemental study materials.
3. **Additional Resources:** Materials, hotlines, and other resources to learn more or use as references.

This document is updated periodically and available online at <https://ecoprocertified.wordpress.com/>.

1. REQUIRED READING LIST

All of the Required Reading can be found in the ecoPRO Required Readings, Version 2b booklet. Many of the readings can also be found online (see links below).

- **ecoPRO Guiding Principles and Sustainable Best Practices.** Version 2b, August 4, 2014.
- ***Sustainable Landscape Management: Design, Construction, Maintenance.*** Thomas W. Cook and Ann Marie Vanderzanden, 2011, chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. (see *ecoPRO Required Readings publication*)
- ***The Case for Sustainable Landscapes*** (pages 5-11 or review "Benefits of Sustainable Sites" at <http://www.sustainablesites.org/benefits>)
- ***Designing the Sustainable Site: Integrated Design Strategies for Small Scale Sites and Residential Landscapes.*** Heather L. Venhaus, 2012, Chapter 1. <http://www.designingthesustainable.com/chapter-one.html>
- **Soils and Soil Testing.** WSU Cooperative Extension. Read "Estimating Soil Texture by Hand." <http://puyallup.wsu.edu/soils/soils/>
- **[www.BuildingSoil.org](http://www.buildingsoil.org)** Washington's soil protection & restoration best practices. Read these 2-page fact sheets:
 - **Soil BMP Summary** http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/Soil_BMP_Summary.pdf
 - **When to Amend?** http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/When_to_Amend.pdf
 - **Erosion Control with Compost** http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/Erosion_Control.pdf
 - **Managing Stormwater Onsite** http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/Managing_Stormwater_Onsite.pdf
- ***Regional Pruning Guides.*** Plant Amnesty. Read Northwest Pacific Maritime and Eastern Washington guides. http://www.plantamnesty.org/PRUNING/regional_Guides.aspx
- ***Best Irrigation Practices.*** Cascade Water Alliance, 2013.
- ***Winterizing and Starting Up the Irrigation System.*** Mark Guthrie, Tacoma Water, 2014.

- **Clean Cities' Guide to Alternative Fuel Commercial Lawn Equipment.** U.S. Department of Energy. <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/pdfs/48369.pdf>
- **Sustainable Lawn Care: Installation and Maintenance Practices for NW Professionals.** Seattle Public Utilities, January 2012. <http://www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/Landscapes/LawnsPlantsTrees/index.htm>
- **Introduction to IPM and PHC/IPM steps flowchart.** Developed by Green Gardening Program, Seattle Public Utilities, updated January 2012. www.seattle.gov/util/ProIPM. Choose "Introduction to ProIPM Fact Sheets" and "PHC/IPM steps flowchart"
- **Grow Smart Grow Safe.** Regional website for practical pest, weed & disease management and safer product selection. Read "Garden Notes/Garden Without Pesticides." <http://www.growsmartgrowsafe.org/GardenWithoutPesticides.aspx>

2. SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY MATERIALS

These are optional resources that support the Required Reading and are highly recommended as supplemental study materials.

- **Overall sustainable landscaping.** Reading: "Natural Landscaping: Design, Build, Maintain." Seattle Public Utilities, September 2007. <http://www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/Landscapes/LawnsPlantsTrees/index.htm>
- **Design.** Video: "Designing the Sustainable Site" (by Heather Venhaus, on her book in the above Required Reading List) <http://vimeo.com/53430426>
- **Soils & soil testing.** Videos (WSU Cooperative Extension). <http://puyallup.wsu.edu/soils/soils/>
- **Soils for Salmon.** Links, video, slide show: www.BuildingSoil.org
- **Pruning.** Videos: How-to pruning videos (Plant Amnesty). <http://www.plantamnesty.org/pruning-literature-and-dvds>
- **IPM.** Links: Weed Control Calendar; individual ProIPM fact sheets. www.seattle.gov/util/ProIPM
- **IPM.** Grow Smart Grow Safe website. <http://www.growsmartgrowsafe.org/>

3. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES to learn more or use as references

* resources also included on the Required Reading list

HOTLINES – Expert consultation for professionals or clients – email photos for pest and problem ID

- **Garden Hotline** 206-633-0224 help@gardenhotline.org many resources at www.gardenhotline.org
- **Plant Answer Line** (UW Botanic Gardens Miller Library) 206-897-5268 hortlib@uw.edu
<http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/resources/resources.php>

GENERAL

- **WSU Extension Master Gardener** <http://gardening.wsu.edu/> extensive library of information
- Seattle Public Utilities websites: **Natural Yard Care**
<http://www.seattle.gov/util/EnvironmentConservation/MyLawnGarden/index.htm>
and **Landscape Professionals** on soil, plants, pests, landscape maintenance plans, IPM etc.
<http://www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/Landscapes/index.htm>
- Documenting the value/benefits of sustainable landscapes:
The Value of Green infrastructure covers air, water, energy, climate, and community benefits
<http://www.americanrivers.org/newsroom/resources/the-value-of-green-infrastructure/>
Green Cities: Good Health – a comprehensive searchable database of research-proven human benefits
<http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/>
- **Ecological Landscaping Association LinkedIn Group** – landscape professionals around the nation communicating about sustainable, ecological landscaping experience. Register through LinkedIn.

DESIGN

- * **Natural Landscaping: Design, Build, Maintain**
<http://www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/Landscapes/LawnsPlantsTrees/index.htm>
- * **The Sustainable Sites Initiative** (or SITES™) www.sustainablesites.org summarizes the roots of sustainable design in *The Case for Sustainable Landscapes*
http://sustainablesites.org/report/The%20Case%20for%20Sustainable%20Landscapes_2009.pdf
and draft *Guidelines & Performance Benchmarks 2009* <http://www.sustainablesites.org/report/> (similar to the USGBC's LEED™ green building system). The final SITES reference guide is due out in Sept. 2013.
Landscape for Life <http://landscapeforlife.org/> has SITES-based guidance for the general public, including a curriculum with slide-sets with instructors manual.
- **ASLA Sustainable Landscapes** – case studies, design resources, & more
<http://www.asla.org/sustainablelandscapes/>
- **APLD Guidelines for Creating Environmentally Responsible Landscapes**
<http://apld.org/media/Sustainability/Guidelines%20Environmental%20brochure.pdf>
- **KC Native Plant Guide** – landscape plans for a variety of site conditions
<http://green.kingcounty.gov/GoNative/Plan.aspx?Act=list>
- **WDFW Landscape Design for Wildlife** <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/landscaping/>
- **Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens: good science-practical applications** book with local authors
<http://www.sustainablelandscapesandgardens.com/>

SOIL

- * www.SoilsforSalmon.org has background science and www.BuildingSoil.org has basic information for builders and landscapers on Washington's soil protection and restoration requirements, including the *Building Soil manual* http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/Soil_BMP_Manual.pdf, compost calculator, erosion control, project sequencing for soil restoration, and a short slideshow useful for orienting staff and customers *Soil Strategies for Landscape Success* http://www.soilsforsalmon.org/pdf/Soil_BMP_slideshow.pdf
- * **WSU Cooperative Extension Soil Information for Gardeners** <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/soilmgmt/Gardening.htm>, including how-to on soil sampling and understanding test results, soil texture, Washington soils, and more at <http://puyallup.wsu.edu/soilmgmt/Gardening.html>
- **Soil Biology Primer** – excellent illustrations & text on how soil works; available online or book http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/concepts/soil_biology/biology.html
- **APLD Guide to Sustainable Soils** <http://apld.org/media/Sustainability/Sustainable%20Soils%20Brochure%20-%205-1-12.pdf>
- **ASLA conference 2012 Healthy Soil presentations:**
Healthy Soils Part 1: Physical, Organic, and Chemical Properties
http://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Meetings_and_Events/2012_Annual_Meeting_Handouts/MON-A1%20Healthy%20Soils%20Physical%20Organic%20and%20Chemical%20Properties%20Part%20I.pdf
- **Healthy Soils Part 2: Preservation, Reuse and Modification of Soil**
http://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Meetings_and_Events/2012_Annual_Meeting_Handouts/MON-B2%20Healthy%20Soils%20Preservation%20Reuse%20and%20Modification%20Part%20II.pdf

WATER & IRRIGATION

- **Going Green with Irrigation System Maintenance.** Tim Wilson, 2009.
- www.SavingWater.org water conservation and healthy landscape practices
- **Irrigation Association** educational resources, http://www.irrigation.org/Resources/Resources_Splash.aspx including comprehensive **Turf & Landscape Irrigation Best Management Practices** www.irrigation.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=1142 for design, installation, maintenance, and management of irrigation systems, and irrigation designer and installer **Professional Certification** http://www.irrigation.org/Certification/Certification_Splash.aspx
- **Irrigation Water Management Society** <http://www.iwms.org/> –click on “Seattle’ for local ET data & more

STORMWATER

- * **RainWise: Managing Stormwater at Home** – public guide and simple how-to factsheets <http://www.seattle.gov/util/RainWise> and Seattle's **Green Infrastructure** www.seattle.gov/util/greeninfrastructure
- **Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound** – complete guidance on green stormwater infrastructure methods www.psp.wa.gov/LID_manual.php
Eastern WA LID Guidance Manual <http://www.wastormwatercenter.org/eastern-washington-stormwater-resources>
- **Rain Garden Handbook for Western WA**, 2013 ed. and other WSU resources <http://raingarden.wsu.edu/>
- **WSU Low Impact Development Technical Workshops** <http://cm.wsu.edu/ehome/index.php?eventid=85334&> or **UW Green Stormwater Infrastructure Design & Management** <http://www.pce.uw.edu/certificates/green-stormwater-infrastructure.html> or for links to both of these and similar certificate and training programs around the US see WA Stormwater Center <http://www.wastormwatercenter.org/training-resources/>

- **WA Dept. of Ecology's LID page** with many useful links
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/LID/Resources.html

IPM/IPC – Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Plant Care

- * **ProIPM factsheets** on common NW problems, and Green Gardening workshop presentations on IPM, plant selection, and more www.seattle.gov/util/ProIPM
- * www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org practical pest, weed & disease management and safer product selection
- **WSU IPM Resources** – many useful resources are linked from this page <http://pep.wsu.edu/resources.html>
- **UPEST- School IPM** <http://schoolipm.wsu.edu/>
- **UC IPM** pest & solutions, from University of California <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/>
- **IPMopedia** <http://www.IPMopedia.org>
- The **Garden Hotline** and **Plant Answer Line** (listed under Hotlines at top) can help with pest, weed, & disease identification (call, or email them a photo) and least toxic control methods
- **Common Sense Pest Control**, Olkowski, Daar and Olkowski. Book.

PLANTS

- ***Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines (4th Edition)***. Richard W. Harris, James R. Clark, Nelda P. Matheny, 2004.
- www.GreatPlantPicks.org – NW adapted plants listed by site condition and other criteria
- **King County Native Plant Guide** – plant list, planting plans, plant site requirements
<http://green.kingcounty.gov/GoNative/>
- **WSU Extension Native Plants database** <http://pnwplants.wsu.edu/>
- **WA Native Plant Society** <http://www.wnps.org/>
- ***Tree Protection on Construction and Development Sites: A Best Management Practices Guidebook for the PNW***, EM 8994 December 2009 http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_urban_treeprotctnguidbk.pdf

LAWNS

- ***Ecologically Sound Lawn Care for the Pacific NW*** – 90-page manual
<http://www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/Landscapes/LawnsPlantsTrees/index.htm>
or see the 8-page summary ***Sustainable Lawn Care for Northwest Professionals***
<http://www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/Landscapes/LawnsPlantsTrees/index.htm>
- **WSU EB0482 Home Lawns** for public <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb0482/eb0482.pdf> , and many resources linked from WSU Master Gardener Library / Lawns <http://gardening.wsu.edu/lawns/>

URBAN AGRICULTURE / EDIBLE LANDSCAPING

- **Growing Food in the City** – basic food gardening information in 14 languages
<http://www.seattle.gov/util/EnvironmentConservation/MyLawnGarden/FoodGardening/index.htm>

- Seattle's **Food and Urban Agriculture** website links many food security and urban ag resources <http://www.seattle.gov/environment/food.htm>
- **Seattle Tilth Association** – classes, demonstration gardens, and volunteer opportunities <http://seattletilth.org/>
- **Urban Garden Share** – find a space to share <http://www.urbangardenshare.org/>
- **Master Gardeners** – Washington State University Extension <http://gardening.wsu.edu/>
- **Lettuce Link** – food sharing program, <http://www.solid-ground.org/programs/nutrition/lettuce/Pages/default.aspx> and how-to-grow guide **Gardening for Good Nutrition** <http://www.solid-ground.org/AboutUs/Publications/Documents/GardeningGuide3-09-WEB.pdf>
- **Urban Farm Hub** – urban agriculture news and resources for the Northwest <http://www.urbanfarmhub.org/>
- **Edible Landscaping Basics** book and online content by a pioneer, Rosalind Creasy <http://www.rosalindcreasy.com/edible-landscaping-basics/>
- Search “Edible Landscaping Northwest” for books by Marianne Binetti & others, blogs, etc.

LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

- **EnviroStars** business certification <http://www.envirostars.org/>
- **WA Association of Landscape Professionals (WALP)** education <http://www.walp.org/education.html>
- **WA State Nursery & Landscape Association (WSNLA)** <http://www.wsnla.org/CertifiedProfessionalHorticulturist.htm>
- **WA Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA)** state licensure and continuing education <http://www.wasla.org/professional-practice/continuing-education/>
- **WA Chapter of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD)** certification and education <http://apldwa.org/about-apld>
- **International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)** certification <http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/index.aspx> and Pacific Northwest Chapter continuing education <http://pnwisa.org/continuing-education/>
- **Irrigation Association (IA)** certification for designers and installers <http://www.irrigation.org/Certification/>
- **WSU Low Impact Development** certificate program – site includes all presentations from the course <http://cm.wsu.edu/ehome/index.php?eventid=85334&>
- **UW Green Stormwater Infrastructure** certificate program <http://www.pce.uw.edu/certificates/green-stormwater-infrastructure.html>

Sustainable or organic landscape professional certification programs around the U.S.

- **ecoPRO Certified Sustainable Landscape Professional** <https://ecoprocertified.wordpress.com/>
- **Bay Friendly Landscaping** <http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org/Landscapeprofessional.shtml> and **Bay Friendly Guidelines** <http://www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=188>
- **NOFA Organic Land Care** <http://www.organiclandcare.net/>
- **Society for Organic Urban Land Care** <http://www.organiclandcare.org/>
- **Oregon Tilth Organic Land Care** <http://tilth.org/education-research/organic-land-care-accreditation>