

# ecoPRO Sustainable Landscape Professional Certification

## REQUIRED READING LIST, SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS, & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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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 2 booklet (for purchase through [www.wsnla.org/ecoprocertified](http://www.wsnla.org/ecoprocertified)); some of the readings can also be found online. Please read the information PRIOR to attending the training and/or taking the exam. Much 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 [www.wsnla.org/ecoprocertified](http://www.wsnla.org/ecoprocertified) or [www.walp.org/ecoPRO](http://www.walp.org/ecoPRO).

### **1. REQUIRED READING LIST**

All of the Required Reading can be found in the ecoPRO Required Readings, Version 2 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/soilmgmt/Soils.html>
- **[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](http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/Soil_BMP_Summary.pdf)
  - **When to Amend?** [http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/When\\_to\\_Amend.pdf](http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/When_to_Amend.pdf)
  - **Erosion Control with Compost** [http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/Erosion\\_Control.pdf](http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/Erosion_Control.pdf)
  - **Managing Stormwater Onsite** [http://www.buildingsoil.org/tools/Managing\\_Stormwater\\_Onsite.pdf](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](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/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/01\\_025113.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/01_025113.pdf)
- **Introduction to IPM and PHC/IPM steps flowchart.** Developed by Green Gardening Program, Seattle Public Utilities, updated January 2012. [www.seattle.gov/util/ProIPM](http://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: "Resource-Efficient Natural Landscaping: Design, Build, Maintain." Seattle Public Utilities, September 2007. [http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/spu01\\_003440.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/spu01_003440.pdf)
- **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/soilmgmt/Soils.html>
- **Soils for Salmon.** Links, video, slide show: [www.BuildingSoil.org](http://www.BuildingSoil.org)
- **Pruning.** Videos: How-to pruning videos (Plant Amnesty). <http://www.plantamnesty.org/pruning/videos.aspx>
- **IPM.** Links: Weed Control Calendar; individual ProIPM fact sheets. [www.seattle.gov/util/ProIPM](http://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](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org) many resources at [www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org)
- **Plant Answer Line** (UW Botanic Gardens Miller Library) 206-897-5268 [hortlib@uw.edu](mailto: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/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/spu01\\_003440.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/spu01_003440.pdf)
- \* **The Sustainable Sites Initiative** (or SITES™) [www.sustainablesites.org](http://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](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](http://www.SoilsforSalmon.org) has background science and [www.BuildingSoil.org](http://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](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](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](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](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](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](http://www.SavingWater.org) water conservation and healthy landscape practices
- **Irrigation Association** educational resources, [http://www.irrigation.org/Resources/Resources\\_Splash.aspx](http://www.irrigation.org/Resources/Resources_Splash.aspx) including comprehensive **Turf & Landscape Irrigation Best Management Practices** [www.irrigation.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=1142](http://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](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.seattle.gov/util/ProIPM)
- \* [www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org](http://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 (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)***. Richard W. Harris, James R. Clark, Nelda P. Matheny, 2004.
- [www.GreatPlantPicks.org](http://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](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/groups/public/@spu/@foodyard/documents/webcontent/ecological\\_200312021255394.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@foodyard/documents/webcontent/ecological_200312021255394.pdf)  
or see the 8-page summary ***Sustainable Lawn Care for Northwest Professionals***  
[http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/01\\_025113.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/01_025113.pdf)
- **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** [www.walp.org/ecoPRO.htm](http://www.walp.org/ecoPRO.htm) or [www.wsnla.org/ecoprocertified](http://www.wsnla.org/ecoprocertified)
- **Bay Friendly Landscaping** <http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org/Landscapeprofessional.shtm> 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>