

Public Education

Description

Model and teach water conservation and water pollution prevention to all consumers of green industry products.

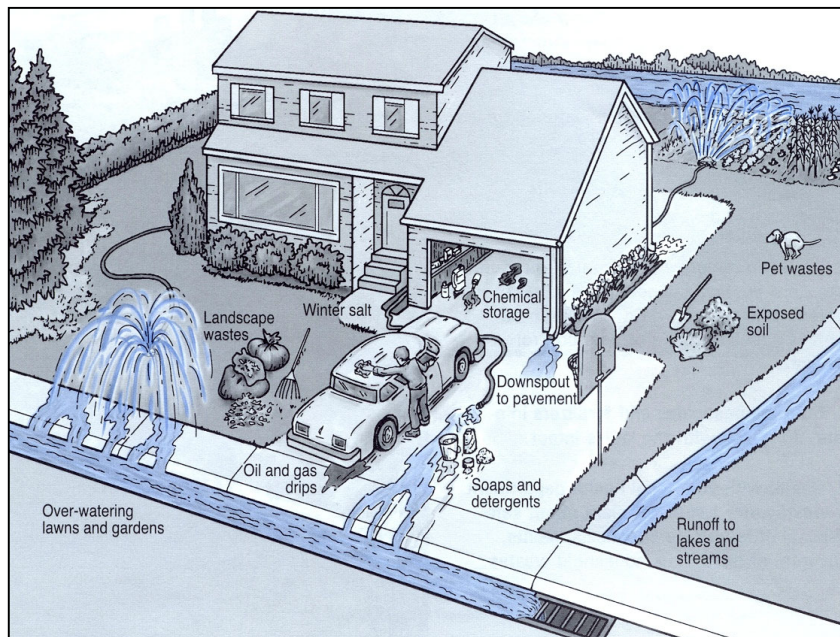
Basic Practice Guidelines

Green Industry professionals have the opportunity to model water conservation and water quality protection practices to the public through their actions and through distribution of educational materials. Following these basic public education guidelines is a list of references that are readily accessible and already in a form appropriate for the general public.

1. Provide leadership to the public by demonstrating practical and attractive water-efficient devices and landscapes.
2. Distribute water conservation and water quality protection information through a wide range of media including the Internet, nurseries and garden centers.
3. Educate the public on the many environmental and aesthetic benefits of landscaping.
4. Emphasize the value of conservation-oriented watering practices and the benefits of Xeriscape to clients and customers. For example, clearly communicate the basic principle that proper irrigation saves water, money and promotes healthier plants. Also let clients know that Xeriscape “doesn’t have to be ugly” or grass-less. Turf has its place in Xeriscaped landscapes and provides water quality benefits when properly maintained.
5. Provide technical assistance to the public in converting existing landscapes into those that incorporate Xeriscape principles.
6. Provide education to customers and the public regarding the benefits of establishing a water budget and adjusting irrigation practices to fit the water budget (and therefore the needs of the plants.)
7. Actively participate in educational programs focused on water conservation and water quality protection. Examples may include speaking in schools, distributing videos and brochures, hosting Xeriscape demonstration projects, etc. Nurseries and garden centers can provide displays featuring Xeriscape demonstration gardens or hands-on demonstrations on creating Xeriscape landscapes.
8. For lawn care professionals, offer clients a water audit service to improve efficiency of water use. This would include evaluating sprinkler systems for proper coverage, replacing damaged heads, realigning heads, teaching owners how to program their controllers, preparing watering schedules based on weather conditions, etc.

BMP Type			
Design			X
Installation			X
Maintenance/Operations			X
Green Industry Relevance			
ASLA	X	GCC	X
ALCC	X	ISA	X
CALCP	X	RMSGGA	X
CGGA	X	WFC	X
CNA	X		

9. Cooperate with other agencies on local ordinance development, public workshops, garden tours, videos, newsletters, events, etc.
10. Educate new owners of irrigation systems on how to operate them. At a minimum, owners should know how to run the controller and change watering times and duration (minutes) based on weather and seasonal conditions. Irrigation contractors should provide owners with proper scheduling guidelines and techniques and an "as-built" drawing of the irrigation design that specifies the location and specifications of all application devices, pipelines, wiring, control valves, back-flow prevention devices and rain shut-off equipment.
11. When communicating with the public, be properly educated about the water requirements of plants and recommend plants with lower water requirements. Don't be fooled by marketing campaigns touting low-water usage or native plants without the data to back up their claims.
12. Emphasize the fact that reading the label when applying pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers is critical—over-application and misuse of these chemicals can harm plants and often damages the water quality in streams and lakes.
13. Emphasize the critical importance of proper ground preparation prior to planting and laying sod. Many new homeowners have "basement topsoil" left to work with and may not understand how important it is to properly amend this soil to facilitate efficient water usage and healthy lawns.
14. Consider establishing displays, signage, information brochure distribution shelves, or pilot-demonstration test sites for the purposes of effective public education.



Green Industry professionals can help to educate the public on measures to conserve water and minimize pollution.

Source: Colorado Nonpoint Source Council/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Key References to Share with the Public

American Nursery and Landscape Association. 2002. Web site: www.anla.org.

American Society of Landscape Architects. 2002. Web site: www.asla.org.

Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado. 2002. Web site: www.alcc.com.

California Department of Water Resources. 1993. Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. Web site: <http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/landscape/ord/ord.cfm>.

California Urban Water Conservation Council. 2002. H₂OUSE Water Saver Home. Web site: www.h2ouse.net.

City of Colorado Springs Utilities. 2001. Colorado Springs Utilities Xeriscape Web Site: www.csu.org/xeri.

Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals (CALCP). 2002. Web site: www.gardeningcolorado.com/calcp.

Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals. 2002. Web site: www.gardeningcolorado.com/calcp.

Colorado Department of Local Affairs. 2004. *Water Efficient Landscape Design Model Ordinance*. Web site: www.dola.state.co.us/smartgrowth/. Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Office of Smart Growth.

Colorado State Cooperative Extension. 2001. PLANTtalk Web site: www.ext.colostate.edu/ptlk.

Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. 2001. Gardening Web site: www.ext.colostate.edu/menugard.

Denver Regional Council of Governments. 1998. *Keeping Soil On Site, Construction Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sedimentation Control*. Denver, CO: DRCOG.

Denver Water. 2004. Denver Water Conservation and Xeriscape Web Site: http://www.denverwater.org/cons_xeriscape/cons_xeriscapeframe.html. Also Denver Water brochures.

Design Studios West, Inc.; J.M. Knopf; HydroSystems KDI, Inc.; The Restoration Group, Inc.; and G. A. White. 2004. *WaterWise Landscaping Best Practice Manual: A Companion Guide to Water Efficient Landscape Design*. Web site: www.dola.state.co.us/smartgrowth/. Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Office of Smart Growth.

Garden Centers of Colorado. 2002. Web site: www.gardencentersofcolorado.org.

GreenCO. 2004. Water budget calculator. Web site: www.greenco.org.

International Society of Arboriculture, Rocky Mountain Chapter. 2002. Web site: www.isarmc.org.

International Turf Producers Foundation. 2001. *Water Right—Conserving Our Water, Preserving Our Environment*. Rolling Meadows, IL: ITPF.

Irrigation Association Water Management Committee. 2002. *Turf and Landscape Irrigation Best Management Practices*. (www.irrigation.org). Falls Church, VA: Irrigation Association.

Mecham, B.Q. 2001. *Recommended Best Management Practices for Urban Turfgrass in Colorado*. Loveland, CO: Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Wildlife Habitat*. ([Wildlife Habitat](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Tree Planting*. ([Tree Planting](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Terracing*. ([Terracing](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Pest Management*. ([Pest Management](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Nutrient Management*. ([Nutrient Management](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Mulching*. ([Mulching](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Composting*. ([Composting](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Backyard Pond*. ([Backyard Pond](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.

- Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Wetland*. ([Backyard Wetland](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1998. *Backyard Conservation—Water Conservation Save water with efficient systems and healthy plants*. ([Water Conservation](#)). Washington, DC: NACD.
- Panter, K.L., S.E. Newman and R.M. Waskom. 1998. *Pollution Prevention in Colorado Greenhouses*. XCM-206 (www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/xcm206). Ft. Collins, CO: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.
- Rocky Mountain Sod Growers Association. 2004. Web site: www.rockymountainsodgrowers.com.
- Urban Drainage and Flood Control District. 1996. Clear Choices for Clean Water Series: Managing Your Construction Site, Caring for Your Lawn and Garden, and Managing Your Household Waste. (www.udfcd.org). Denver, CO: UDFCD.
- Urban Drainage and Flood Control District. 1999. *Urban Storm Drainage Criteria Manual, Volume 3, Stormwater Best Management Practices*. Denver, CO: UDFCD.
- Waskom, R. and T. Bauder. 1995. *Homeowner's Guide to Alternative Pest Management for the Lawn and Garden*. XCM-221 (www.cerc.colostate.edu/titles/Guide2). Ft. Collins, CO: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.
- Waskom, R. and T. Bauder. 1995. *Homeowner's Guide to Fertilizing Your Lawn and Garden*. XCM-222 (www.cerc.colostate.edu/titles/Guide3). Ft. Collins, CO: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.
- Waskom, R. and T. Bauder. 1995. *Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Water Quality and the Environment*. XCM-223 (www.cerc.colostate.edu/titles/Guide4). Ft. Collins, CO: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.
- Waskom, R. and T. Bauder. 2002. *Homeowner's Guide to Pesticide Use Around the Home and Garden*. XCM-220 (www.cerc.colostate.edu/titles/Guide1). Ft. Collins, CO: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.
- Wright Water Engineers and Denver Regional Council of Governments (WWE/DRCOG). 1996. *Guidelines for Water Quality Enhancement at Golf Courses Through the Use of Best Management Practices*. Denver, CO: DRCOG.
- Xeriscape Colorado! Inc. 2001. Web site: www.xeriscape.org.