



Back To Our Roots Program – Terms and Certification Criteria for Small Lots Townhouse, Patio Home, or Small Lot (potential planting area less than 10 m² or 100 ft²)

General Terms

- **No fees** are currently charged to participate in the program, for certification assessments, or for the initial on-site expert consultation and follow-up time (approximately 3-5 hours). The Back To Our Roots (BTOR) representative can recommend expert contractors for larger projects if landowners wish to have more assistance after the initial consultation period.
- **A site assessment** by a BTOR representative is required to determine if the criteria for certification have been achieved. The assessment may be requested by landowners or a BTOR representative at any time.
- **Length of term for certification & stewardship agreements:** 3 years. The agreements are **not legally binding**, and either party may terminate the agreement prior to the expiry date with a written notice that states the reasons for the termination. Small lot owners can renew certification by completing the checklist form (provided in info package) and submitting it or reviewing the form with a BTOR representative by site visit or phone call. Landowners can also request a review to update the certification level or amend the stewardship agreement at any time before the 3 year term ends.
- **Reporting:** annual ph call or site visit by BTOR representative and completion of checklist form for reporting.

Certification Criteria for Level 1 (Green)

1. Sign the **stewardship agreement** (unless it was already signed within the previous 3 year agreement term).
2. Manage **all priority invasive plants** on the property according to the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) guidelines and recommendations (see <http://crispinvasives.ca/priority-species/priority-invaders/>). Use chemical control **only if** no other methods (prevention, mechanical control, biological control) are effective in managing a particular invasive species at the site.
3. **At least 15%** of the potential planting area of the property will be naturescaped +/- or has maintained natural habitat with **at least 3 species** of appropriate regionally native plants (see attached list).
4. Choose **at least 3 items** from the Wildlife Stewardship list (at a minimum, include **food, water and shelter** if possible):
 - Natural food/nutrient sources** - e.g. seeds, berries, fruit, nuts, nectar, pollen, foliage, twigs, sap, deadwood, bare soil for butterflies and bees.
 - Supplemental feeders** - e.g. suet, seeds, hummingbird feeder.
 - Wildlife water feature** - e.g. maintained bird or bug bath.
 - Cover/nesting areas** - e.g. trees and shrubs; bat, bee or bird houses (appropriate designs for native species).
 - Keep cats indoors** at all times, or on a **leash** or in an **enclosure** when outdoors.

- Reduce outdoor lighting** during bird migration (Mar – May, Sept – Nov).
 - Reduce bird window collisions** by placing stickers on glass, or similar measures.
5. Choose **at least 1 water use reduction** measure (if permitted by strata bylaws):
- Let the **lawn go dormant** in the summer.
 - Hand water or use drip/leaky pipe irrigation** on timers for other plants. Only water plants in the morning or evening.
 - Use **organic mulch** (such as leaves) to retain soil moisture and restore the soil.
 - Use **rain barrels or cisterns** where appropriate and if permitted.
6. **Eliminate** the use of **synthetic fertilizers** (at least for native plants). Use organic fertilizers such as compost and leaf mulch instead.
7. Choose **at least 1** item from the **Continuing Education** list:
- Read** naturescaping related information.
 - Participate** in naturescaping **courses and workshops**.
 - Attend tours** of naturescaped properties.
 - Visit Garry Oak habitat** sites (see: http://www.goert.ca/support/places_to_visit.php).
 - Attend nature talks/courses/field trips** (e.g. Victoria Natural History Society, CRD Parks, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, Native Plant Study Group, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Compost Education Centre).
8. Install the BTOR **yard sign** (optional).

This project was undertaken with the financial support
of the Government of Canada.

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier
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Certification Criteria for Level 2 (Gold)



1. Sign the **stewardship agreement** (unless it was already signed within the previous 3 year agreement term).
2. Manage **all priority invasive plants** on the lot according to the Coastal Invasive Species Committee guidelines and recommendations (see <http://www.coastalisc.com/priority-invasive-plant>). Use chemical control **only if** no other methods (prevention, mechanical control, biological control) are effective in managing a particular invasive species at the site.
3. **At least 25%** of the potential planting area of the property will be naturescaped +/- or has maintained natural habitat with **at least 5 species** of appropriate regionally native plants (see attached list).
4. Choose **at least 5 items** from the Wildlife Stewardship list (at a minimum, include **food, water and shelter** if possible):
 - Natural food/nutrient sources** - e.g. seeds, berries, fruit, nuts, nectar, pollen, foliage, twigs, sap, deadwood, bare soil for butterflies and bees.
 - Supplemental feeders** - e.g. suet, seeds, hummingbird feeder.
 - Wildlife water feature** - e.g. maintained bird or bug bath.
 - Cover/nesting areas** - e.g. trees and shrubs; bat, bee or bird houses (appropriate designs for native species).
 - Keep cats indoors** at all times, or on a **leash** or in an **enclosure** when outdoors.
 - Reduce outdoor lighting** during bird migration (Mar – May, Sept – Nov).
 - Reduce bird window collisions** by placing stickers on glass, or similar measures.
5. Choose **at least 1 water use reduction** measure (if permitted by strata bylaws):
 - Let the **lawn go dormant** in the summer.
 - Hand water or use drip/leaky pipe irrigation** on timers for other plants. Only water plants in the morning or evening.
 - Use **organic mulch** (such as leaves) to retain soil moisture and restore the soil.
 - Use **rain barrels or cisterns** where appropriate and if permitted.
6. **Eliminate** the use of **synthetic fertilizers** (at least for native plants). Use organic fertilizers such as compost and leaf mulch instead.
7. Choose **at least 1 item** from the **Continuing Education** list:
 - Read** naturescaping related information.
 - Participate** in naturescaping **courses and workshops**.
 - Attend tours** of naturescaped properties.
 - Visit Garry Oak habitat** sites (see: http://www.goert.ca/support/places_to_visit.php).
 - Attend nature talks/courses/field trips** (e.g. Victoria Natural History Society, CRD Parks, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, Native Plant Study Group, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Compost Education Centre).
8. Install the BTOR **yard sign** (optional).

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