

# Bay-Friendly Landscape

## Maintenance Training & Qualification Program

**For the Professional Landscape Community  
Offered in Marin County  
Starts February 1, 2012**

Visit [www.mcstoppp.org/events.htm](http://www.mcstoppp.org/events.htm) and apply today!

Continuing education units are pending from DPR, IA, and ISA.  
Series endorsed by the North Coast Chapter of CLCA.



### WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

Become a recognized expert in Bay-Friendly Landscaping and gain a competitive advantage! Expand your business to offer cutting-edge sustainable maintenance practices. Network with peers. Learn to:

- Enhance soil biology to feed plants naturally
- Sheet mulch to reduce weeds, waste and water use
- Conserve water, minimize runoff and prevent pollution
- Communicate these innovative services to your clients
- Stay in compliance with local and State laws

### COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Analyzing the job site
- Where, when and how to sample soil
- Weeds as indicators of soil quality
- Air quality and energy conservation
- Creating drought tolerant soils
- Irrigation techniques including use of smart controllers
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Innovations in non-toxic weed control
- Using mulch to stop runaway soil
- Choosing appropriate plants for different settings
- Attracting beneficial birds, bees and other organisms
- Low impact development strategies including swales, rain gardens and permeable pavement
- Connecting with local resources

Marin Training sponsored by Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) and Marin Municipal Water District in cooperation with the Marin County Office of Education.

*Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening* is a trademark and servicemark owned by StopWaste.Org. Regional Bay-Friendly programming is made possible through the Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Regional Coalition. Find out more at [www.BayFriendlyCoalition.org](http://www.BayFriendlyCoalition.org).

# Bay-Friendly Landscaping is

a holistic approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural conditions of the San Francisco Bay Watershed. Bay-Friendly practices foster soil health, and conserve water and other valuable resources while reducing waste and preventing pollution.

*Bay-Friendly Landscaping is sustainable landscaping.*



## GET RECOGNIZED

The Bay-Friendly Landscaping Program will recognize all qualified landscape professionals who meet a standard for knowledge about Bay-Friendly principles and maintenance practices by:

- **Listing your name** on a regional Bay-Friendly website as well as several public and private-sector sites.
- **Distributing a list** of qualified individuals to municipal staff in Marin County.
- **Providing publicity** through local advertisements.
- **Providing a certificate of qualification** and patch with the Bay-Friendly Landscaping logo.
- **Helping you identify yourself** as a Bay-Friendly Qualified Landscape Professional through use of the logo as well as a personalized graphic for your own website.

*“It’s a good program that unifies a lot of concepts clearly – and it’s a good way to meet people trying to do the same as you.”*

— Andrew Packer, Acorn Landscaping, Inc.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Public and private sector landscape professionals who design, construct, or manage:

- Commercial landscapes
- Residential landscapes & gardens
- Municipal landscapes
- Schools, parks & recreational amenities

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

- 1) Clients in Marin County
  - 2) 1 year full time experience in the landscape industry *OR* completion of a 2-year curriculum in landscape horticulture
  - 3) Must be able to attend all 7 classes
- Training and qualification is for individuals, not companies (though company affiliation will be noted in promotional efforts.)

## SCHEDULE & REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION

To be qualified as a Bay-Friendly Landscape Professional and receive a certificate of course completion, you will be required to attend ALL classes and pass a final exam. **Classes will meet every Wednesday, February 1 through March 14, 2012, from 3–6:30 pm** for a total of 24 hours of instruction. (Last hour of last class is reserved for final exam.)

## WORKSHOP COST

\$150 per person for 7-week series. Includes a certificate and individual membership in the Bay-Friendly Coalition for two years.

If your company or organization has a Small Business/Non-Profit or Large Business/Public Agency level membership, a 20% discount would apply for all employee registrations.

# Bay-Friendly Training & Qualification for Maintaining Existing Landscapes

**For Landscape Professionals**

**Offered in Marin County**

**February 1 - March 14, 2012**

Series endorsed by CLT Education Committee, North Coast Chapter of CLCA

Continuing Education Units available from DPR, ISA, IA and APLD



“Bay-Friendly” landscaping is an increasingly popular approach to the design, construction and maintenance of landscapes in both the public and private sectors. With this increased interest has come an increased need for professionals trained in environmentally friendly practices. After completing this series, you will be recognized as a “Bay-Friendly Landscape Professional,” and be promoted as such, by the Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition and local public agencies.

**SPONSORED BY**

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP)

Marin Municipal Water District

Marin County Office of Education



This fast-moving program includes professional speakers and hands-on demonstrations for experienced public and private landscape professionals who design, construct, and/or manage landscapes in Marin County.

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- Enhance soil biology to feed plants naturally
- Sheet mulch to reduce weeds, waste and water use
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**COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:**

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- Where, when and how to sample soil
- Weeds as indicators of soil quality
- Air quality and energy conservation
- Creating drought tolerant soils
- Irrigation techniques including use of smart controllers
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Innovations in non-toxic weed control
- Using mulch for erosion control
- Choosing appropriate plants for different settings
- Attracting beneficial birds, bees and other organisms
- Low impact development strategies including swales, rain gardens and permeable pavement
- Connecting with local resources

If you require accommodations to participate in this activity, call (415) 473-4381 (voice) or (415) 473-3232 (tty) at least 4 workdays in advance.

Copies of documents are available in alternative formats upon written request.

Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening is a trademark and servicemark owned by StopWaste.Org. For information on Bay-Friendly, visit [www.BayFriendlyCoalition.Org](http://www.BayFriendlyCoalition.Org).



**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Please complete a registration form for EACH person attending. Cost is \$150 per person and includes a certificate and a 2-year individual membership in the Bay-Friendly Coalition. If you are already a member, your fee will extend your membership an additional 2 years. For applicable discounts, see small print under WORKSHOP COST. Make check payable to County of Marin and reference “Bay-Friendly Series” on your check. Mail check and registration to:

Gina Purin, MCSTOPPP, P.O. Box 4186, San Rafael CA 94913-4186

Questions? Call (415) 499-3202 or email [gpurin@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:gpurin@co.marin.ca.us)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Website (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

*February 1, 2012*

### **CLASS 1: Introduction to Bay-Friendly Practices and Soil Basics**

- **Agenda**
- **Practice Questions for Class 1 (yellow sheet)**
- **Support Materials for Class 1**
  - *Bay Friendly Landscape Guidelines* (Blue Book – use for all classes)
  - *Excerpt from Soil Biology Primer*
  - **Soil Matters**

*February 8, 2012*

### **CLASS 2: Soil Care and Plant Nutrition**

- **Preparing for Class 2 (green sheet)**
- **Agenda**
- **Practice Questions for Class 2 (yellow sheet)**
- **Support Materials for Class 2**
  - **Assessing Soil Samples**
  - **How's Your Soil Texture**
  - **Soil Texture Triangle**
  - **Determining Soil Texture by Feel**
  - **Soil and Nutrition Management: Determining Square Footage**
  - *A Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Mulch*

*February 15, 2012*

### **CLASS 3: Water Management**

- **Preparing for Class 3 (green sheet)**
- **Agenda**
- **Practice Questions for Class 3 (yellow sheet)**
- **Support Materials for Class 3**
  - **Low Impact Development: A Sensible Approach to Land Development and Stormwater Management**
  - **Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance**
  - **Comparison of Smart Controllers**
  - **OWOW Fact Sheet: Pesticides and Water Pollution**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS CONT'D

*February 22, 2012*

### **CLASS 4: Waste Management**

- **Preparing for Class 4 (green sheet)**
- **Agenda**
- **Practice Questions for Class 4 (yellow sheet)**
- **Support Materials for Class 4**
  - **Seal of Testing Assurance**
  - **OWOW Fact Sheet: Use and Disposal of Pesticides**
  - **Restoring Backyard Habitat in Marin and Sonoma Counties**
  - ***A Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Recycled-Content and Salvaged Materials*** (binder pocket)
  - **Growing Gardens from Garbage** (binder pocket)

*February 29, 2012*

### **CLASS 5: Landscaping Locally: Plant Choices**

- **Preparing for Class 5 (green sheet)**
- **Agenda**
- **Practice Questions for Class 5 (yellow sheet)**
- **Support Materials for Class 5**
  - **MMWD Recommended Water Wise Plant List**
  - **Gardening Near Native Oak Trees (Mostly Natives Nursery)**
  - **How to Plant a Dog-Safe Garden**
  - **OWOW Fact Sheet: Tips For a Healthy, Beautiful Lawn**
  - **Lawn Watering Guide for California**
  - ***A Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Grasscycling***
  - **Yard Clippings and Your Creekbank** (binder pocket)
  - ***Go Native!*** Includes riparian plant list (binder pocket)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS CONT'D

*March 7, 2012*

### **CLASS 6: Integrated Pest Management**

- **Preparing for Class 6 (green sheet)**
- **Agenda**
- **Practice Questions for Class 6 (yellow sheet)**
- **Support Materials for Class 6**
  - **PlantRight: Invasive Plants of the North and Central Coast**
  - **OWOW Fact Sheets (Growing Healthy Gardens, Ants, Aphids, Roses, Snails/Slugs, Spiders, Weeds, Yellowjackets, Mosquitoes)**
  - **OWOW Store Partners**
  - **OWOW Less-Toxic Product List By Pests – cover page (for complete document go to: [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org))**
  
- **Don't Plant a Pest: Suggested Alternatives for Invasive Garden Plants of the Greater SF Bay Area (binder pocket)**
- **Don't Plant a Pest: Suggested Alternatives for Invasive Trees in California (binder pocket)**
- **10 Most Wanted Bugs in Your Garden (binder pocket)**

*March 14, 2012*

### **CLASS 7: Air Quality & Energy Conservation Gardening for Wildlife**

#### **Site Assessment & Analysis**

- **Preparing for Class 7 (green sheet)**
- **Agenda**
- **Practice Questions for Class 7 (yellow sheet)**
- **Support Materials for Class 7**
  - **Site Analysis for Maintaining Bay-Friendly Landscapes form**
  - **Landscaping to Save Energy**
  - **How to Choose a Landscape Professional (binder pocket)**

## **FINAL EXAM**

## **GLOSSARY: Definition of Terms**

**Marin County 2012 Bay-Friendly Landscape Maintenance Training  
and Qualification Program**

**AGENDA**

**CLASS 3: February 15, 2012**

**Water Conservation & Management**

- 3:00 – 3:05     **Welcome/Review of Practice Questions**
- 3:05 – 3:30     **Stormwater Ordinance (Terri Fashing)**
- Stormwater ordinances and implications for landscapers
- 3:30 – 4:15     **Water Conservation Overview (Dan Carney)**
- Water conservation ordinances that impact landscapers
  - Tools for calculating a water budget: hydrozoning, WUCOLS, WELO
  - Tips for calculating water budgets
  - Application rates and distribution uniformity
  - Reading a water meter
  - MMWD rebate programs
  - Cisterns
  - Catch can test
- 4:15 – 4:25     **BREAK/Dialogue with Speakers**
- 4:25 – 5:25     **Tips for Maintaining Efficient Irrigation Systems (Tom Campbell)**
- Managing irrigation according to need (weather, soil, plant type, microclimate)
  - Choosing irrigation methods and materials
  - Choosing a smart controller
  - Tools for high efficiency irrigation systems (smart controllers, drip, low flow, soil sensors etc.)
  - Resources from local water agencies
- 5:25 – 6:25     **Techniques for Intercepting & Managing Stormwater (Patrick Picard)**
- Managing runoff – innovative practices for containing water on site (bioswales, bio-retention & filtration, rain gardens, pervious surfaces)
  - Maintaining Stormwater BMP's
- 6:25– 6:30     **Prep for Class 4**



## 2012 Bay-Friendly Landscape Maintenance Training & Qualification Program

### Evaluation – Overall Program (24 Respondents)

#### What was your favorite class? Why?

#1 was most fascinating – learned the most; 2<sup>nd</sup> class, 1<sup>st</sup> class – very informative; class 6 with Annie Joseph and class 2 – the soil guy gave a great presentation; composting – love the idea of the recycling and the poop loop, love the idea of using what we have grown seasonally and seeing it “feed itself” using plants recycled materials to feed itself; Hard to choose – maybe Stephen Andrews for his in-depth knowledge and clarity; Rain gardens and rain harvesting – topic I had limited prior knowledge in and speakers were very informative and well-prepared and overall good speakers; soil food web – very informative and interesting; water management – the potential for different management systems is very interesting; soil care and plant nutrition – I know the least about it; no favorite – all so very good, sheet mulching was cool; soil food web and speakers were great – soil is the most important thing to understand; Waste Management - the one on recycling that was held at the Marin Recycling Center; soil food web or waste management – great speakers, hand on tour of MRRC, interesting topics, new information, inspiration; Debi with her wildlife info – would have liked more time allocated; They’ve all been great – I really enjoyed out field trip to Marin Sanitary; pesticides class - good to know alternatives – least toxic –to use vs. organic methods; soil – for the depth of the information, pesticides – informative on what brands are bay friendly; Class 4 – better understanding of soils/foodweb – the tour; Steve Anderson – soil science; soils – amazed by how complicated and capable the living soil web is – and native plants/restoration – I’ve been interested in the subject; 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> plus one with plant scientist giant meatball guy who blew a handful of dirt at the audience; habitat; My fav class was the first class where we learned about the SFW – what an eye opener – so informative and captivating; Marin Sanitary – great use of recycled materials;

#### What was your favorite activity? Why?

Visiting MSS – loved getting the behind the scenes tour; sheet mulching – just didn’t get enough; Gina’s snacks – thank you, seriously, all were good; evaluating what was – or was not – a bay-friendly garden; liked them all the same; soil texture by feel – great practical application; Soil texture analysis – hands on; sheet mulching – good opener to class – a chance to take a little field trip; all were good and helpful; soil analysis in class 2 made it easy to judge and evaluate texture and structure; Riding around in the bus with the owner of Marin Recycling; Tour of MRRC, detailed info on my local waste stream; soil assessment because so critical to gardening; seeing the microorganisms and fungi – I got a greater understanding of how they live and their importance in the soil; sheet mulching demo; soil testing and sheet mulching; working with the soil test; sheet mulching; Marin Sanitary Tour-exposure to all aspects/life cycle of materials and Sheet Mulch – easier to learn by actually doing/seeing; outdoor demos etc. – all activities were good; the good soil guy’s activity; doing a soil test (jar test) - this helped me determine what I needed to do prior to planting; working with others in teams;

#### Which handouts and resources did you find especially useful? Why?

Gardens from Garbage; resource list – local, practical, effective; handout where to get recycled material; all of them – so much great info that I can use any time; site analysis form; IPM brochures – great pictorial resources; soil analysis/texture – very useful in future; all of them – the materials were excellent although some internet (?) use was required – the organization of the Guidelines could be better; they are all very good – lots of them – just need to go through them; mulching handout – I used it the next day to check my estimate for mulching a client’s site; soil types bagged and described because I could see; resources for reading material as well as website’s for IPM info, native plants, compost sources, as well as new products; all good; Site evaluation – organized. Gardening for wildlife – I’m using it on a design, pocket bird guide – cool, 10 Most Wanted Bugs – pictures of adults and larva; I think the entire program was helpful – I liked that the speakers actually work in the field that they are talking about; soil testing samples; soil matters - mulch; native plants; Soil Matters – nice illustrations and good article – Groundworks – great information; Bay Friendly Book; soil test handouts – handouts with plant lists – i.e. use this, not that – plumbing booklet; landscape guide – sustainable practices;



**Are there topics you would like to see added to the class curriculum? If so, what are they?**

Electric alternatives to gas-powered tools; not a curriculum but maybe more time to go deeper into topics; like to see irrigation taught better – it was boring to me but I thought it was bad for beginners; business operations more green – how about where hardscapes are sourced/mined – how sustainable are these products, where do they come from, what impact does collection/mining them have in the environment; appropriate shrub and tree pruning practices – selective removal; none; gardening for wildlife field trip; honey bees; tough to cover more in the time but I'd loved a second session on IPM devoted to fixing specific problems like sooty mold, thrips . . .; designing with natives and more about maintaining them in residential gardens; how to educate clients about bay friendly practices; site analysis – more time; how to get others on board –my supervisor likes grass, rocks and concrete – and when in doubt, spray it!; none; plants; emphasize the landscape impact/pesticide/ on colony collapse disorder; more in depth science on nitrogen's roll phosphorous and that other main one – stuff too quickly explain natural mechanics to customers; no; none comes to mind; more focus on bio-swales;

**Are there particular speakers, landscapers or other content experts you would recommend as guest instructors? If so, Who?**

no – I'm not familiar enough with this course material to recommend an instructor; Linda Novy – super interested in all this and has taken the course and is an incredible businesswoman; none; Glenn Keator, a native plant expert (Anne Hamlin suggested him in case we need his number); Bill and Tom at Marin Soil Solutions; Doug from OAEC – Occidental Arts & Ecology Center; the soil guy that teaches at UC Berkeley; a native nursery expert; yes – lol can't remember first speaker of class six – guy who runs huge composting business; no; The Sonoma Compost Guy – Bill?, Debbie Tidd, SFW Lady; Delta Blue Grass – the sustainability clown from C&D

**Would you recommend this training program to others? Why or why not?**

Yes, I found it very inspiring and informative; yes- ties a lot together for emphasis on best practices; yes, all in all a great program; absolutely – all should be informed about how we can contribute to the betterment of our environment; I have recommended it – has good, solid, applicable info – it's lively and goes quickly – I appreciate that the schedule is tightly run – I feel my time is respected – thanks; Yes, but . . . depending on prior knowledge of course content, may not be entirely useful – as a Cal Poly grad in horticulture, a lot of this class was review but I want this certification – I would've preferred to be able to test-only – for an average landscaper, I do think it is valuable; yes – changed my attitude to gardening (my job); yes - super great survey of critical components of landscaping, particularly maintenance; YES!! It ties it all together – informative, enlightening, encouraging; yes- it's just a great overall class – very comprehensive and comprehensible; absolutely – a wonderful overview of what we should all be practicing; Absolutely – Already have - I love this class; YES; Yes – and I do; yes – the speakers, handouts, everything; definitely; yes – very informative, good interaction with speakers and students; yes – to help people understand the long term benefits of sustainable practices; yes – essential information for industry pros; yes – great overall view on the importance of protecting our environment and great set of speakers/presentations in wide range of disciplines; yes – a lot of great info and fun teachers; very much – yes, because it's informative and useful; YES – I found this program to be enlightening – I feel I have a better grasp on the “big picture”; yes- it's good to have this information;

**Are there other organizations you would like us to contact for continuing education units? If so, can you give us the contact information:**

I don't need ceu's; no; DPR; ?; no; N/A; NO;

**How important is earning and maintaining the title “Bay-Friendly Qualified” to you as a professional?**

- 10 Very important—I am taking the training for *only* for the Qualification.
- 16 Important—I believe that it will give me/my business a competitive edge.
- 1 Not important—I do not need this title.

I take this more for my own knowledge;

**For future trainings, what time slot would fit best with your schedule:**

- 20 Once a week for 7 weeks  
Three full days during one week
- 2 Four full days spread out over 2 weeks
- 4 Other: once a week for 9 weeks or 5 hour classes; This schedule actually worked out real well plus it's a slow time of year; take individual classes in a 2-year period; weekends; this was great "as is"

**On a scale of 1 to 5, how likely is it that you will incorporate these Bay-Friendly practices into your job sites:**

Not at all (1) Very likely (5)

- Mulching 5 (23)
- Composting 3 (1) 4 (3) 5 (20)
- Soil Testing 2 (1) 3 (5) 4 (5) 5 (13)
- Site Analysis 3 (3), 4 (4), 5 (17)
- High Efficiency Irrigation 4 (3) 5 (21)
- Stormwater Catchment 1 (1) 2 (3) 3 (5) 4 (5), 5 (10)
- Grasscycling 5 (23) (I'm not responsible but can recommend)
- Sheet Mulching 4 (3) 5 (21)
- Lawn Conversion 3 (1) 4 (3) 5 (21)

**What barriers would keep you from incorporating Bay-Friendly practices? Check all that apply.**

- 18 Resistance from client
- 8 Resistance from supervisor
- 3 Lack of information/experience
- 1 Lack of interest
- 3 Other (lack of time to incorporate; costs for soil tests and irrigation system components; lack of interest from client); \$;

**I prefer that resources be available:** 2 as hard copies 5 digitally (online or thumb drive) 17 both  
Your packets and handouts are perfect – and I know where to access other info now

**You will receive extra credit points toward your final exam for completing this evaluation. Please be sure to include your name.**

**THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! It's been our pleasure to work with you!**

You will receive **ADDITIONAL** points for completing the following:

1. **Do you think it's necessary to offer re-qualification? If so, how often:** 2 -3 years (2); every 2 years (7); 3-4 years; 5 years; not sure; every 3 to 5 years; 3 years (2); NO;

**Should re-qualification involve:**

**8 Only a "written" exam that can be taken over the internet**

**5 Proof of on-going education classes**

**11 Both of the above**

**5 Other** (sit in on at least two classes and written test; evidence of presenting info to community groups? Maybe for qualified people with a few years experience; proof of application of principles in work/jobs; either or a supplemental – reminder classes and new info products techniques; a dedicated refresher course)

2. **Do you work in more than one County on landscaping needs?**

**13 Yes**

**6 No**

**4 Not Applicable (municipal govt., educator, etc.)**

**Which Counties do you work in?** Marin (17), Yolo, Sonoma (7), Solano (4), Napa (4), S.F. (4), Greater Bay Area and Sacramento Area; Alameda (4); All of No Cal; Contra Costa (3), San Mateo

3. **Would it be helpful if the program was offered in a cafeteria-style format – e.g. you pick 7 of 10 classes offered (though three may be mandated to receive a certificate). The classes could be attended in any participating county that offers the program.**

**8 Yes 9 No 3 Other** (they are all equally important; if there are 10 classes available, I would want to take all 10; don't think this is a good idea; I like the current training program); for those with prior knowledge, we could pick only what we lack; interesting idea – worth exploring; "AS is" is great – driving to another county would be an issue – time, gas; you need all 7; maybe; only if you could have the option of taking all then;)

4. **Did you learn anything new during the series that you will try in your business?**

**20 Yes**

**No**

**2 Not Applicable (municipal govt., educator, etc.)**

Most definitely; sheet mulching definitely; compost tea; just a deepening of knowledge

5. **Would you prefer: (check all that's appropriate)**

**8 a separate series for maintenance professionals**

**8 a separate series for design professionals**

**11 one series that maintenance and design professionals could attend together**

**4 Other** (core class required by all with mandatory maintenance/design specific auxiliary classes; installation Contractor specific; some kind of combination so that both understand the needs and challenges of the other; I like it just the way it is; can get material only for series one did not attend; all great general and specific courses)

6. Can you tell us what you think the maximum amount a landscape professional might be expected to pay for a series like this:

5 Less than \$200      7 \$200      6 \$300      1 \$400      2 \$500

(I'd pay \$200 or more but think about companies sending employees and paying their wages and it's great to capture the folks "on the ground"; my boss paid; I said \$500 but please don't charge that much; it's all relative – do a \$500 course if you can fill it – fund the Green Army!!)

**THANKS AGAIN!**