

# HABITAT HAVEN CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

## Certification Levels

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### *Silver*

Native Plants: Naturescape > 5% of property with locally native plants\* - at least 3 out of 5 vegetation layers.

Wildlife Stewardship: Pick two items from below.

Stormwater Management: Pick one item from below.

Pesticides Reduction\*\*: No use of RED zone chemicals. Use IPM (Integrated Pest Management) strategy with YELLOW zone chemicals only as a last resort. Plants must be Neonic free.

Invasive Species: Remove all “silver” aggressive weeds. Sprouts may emerge but weeds are under control and not visible.

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### *Gold*

Native Plants: Naturescape > 15% of property with locally native plants\* - at least 4 out of 5 vegetation layers.

Wildlife Stewardship: Pick at least three items from below. If you have a cat, create a plan to reduce its wildlife impacts.

Stormwater Management: Pick at least two items from below.

Education and Volunteerism: Pick one from below.

Pesticides Reduction\*\*: No use of RED or YELLOW zone chemicals. Always use IPM strategy.

Invasive Species: Remove all “silver & gold” aggressive weeds.

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### *Platinum*

Native Plants: Naturescape > 50% of property with locally native plants\* - 5 vegetation layers.

Wildlife Stewardship: Pick at least four items from below. Cats kept inside or in outdoor enclosures 100% of time.

Stormwater Management: Pick at least three items from below.

Education and Volunteerism: Pick two items from below.

Pesticides Reduction\*\*: No use of RED or YELLOW zone chemicals. Always use IPM strategy.

Take a “No Pesticides” Pledge:

[https://www.pesticide.org/pesticide\\_free\\_pledge#:~:text=%22To%20help%20protect%20the%20environment,home%2C%20yard%20and%20garden.%22](https://www.pesticide.org/pesticide_free_pledge#:~:text=%22To%20help%20protect%20the%20environment,home%2C%20yard%20and%20garden.%22)

Invasive Species: Remove all three levels of aggressive weeds.

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## Categories for Certification

### I. Naturescaping

**Native Plants** \*To verify and select locally native plant species please use the handouts from Habitat Haven or web resources listed. We will certify yards that use native species for naturescaping.

#### Vegetation Layers

1. Ground layer: i.e. Inside-out flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*), Western Red Columbine (*Aquilegia Formosa*), kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*).
2. Small/Medium Shrub layer (<5 ft.): i.e. Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), native ferns.
3. Large Shrub layer (5-20ft): i.e. Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), Serviceberry (*Amelachier alnifolia*), Mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*).
4. Understory tree canopy (<30 ft.): : i.e. Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), Cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*).
5. Overstory tree canopy (>30ft): i.e. Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*), Western Redcedar (*Thuja plicata*).

### II. Wildlife Stewardship

*Even if you have not chosen these items for your certification, please learn about how unnecessary and overly bright lighting, window collisions, and outdoor cats can be dangerous to wildlife.*

- Wildlife Water Feature: natural source, maintained bird/bug bath, etc.
- Cats Indoors: or in an outdoor enclosure
- Bird/bat nest boxes: appropriate for native species, clean annually
- Nesting Habitat for Pollinators, Beneficial Insects, Native Lizards and Others: small brush/rock piles, bundles of stems and branches, mason bee house, leaf piles.
- Snags and Nurse logs: provide dead wood onsite, >5ft long
- Reduce Outdoor Lighting: outdoor lights off during migration; Mar-May, Sept-Nov. Lights should face downward. Use motion sensors or timers so lights are on only when necessary.
- Reduce Bird/Window Collisions: assess problem windows, treat to reduce strikes
- Native Pollinator area: native wildflowers which bloom through the growing season, Spring, Summer and Fall.

### III. Stormwater Management

- Large canopy tree: over 30ft, (cannot be nuisance species)
- Disconnect downspouts: where appropriate
- Rain Gardens: manage stormwater onsite, where appropriate
- Remove impervious surfaces such as grass and concrete: more than 500ft<sup>2</sup>
- Ecoroof: according to City specs
- Increase Naturescaping: to 10% higher than your certification level requirement
- Restore Soils: leave the leaves, add compost, worm bin,
- Water Conservation: Eliminate lawn irrigation, water in morning and evening only
- Adopt eco-friendly maintenance practices: petroleum-free yard care, responsible, organic fertilizer use, and/or use landscapers from HH Landscaper Directory
  - If lawn, mow to keep grass 3” or taller. Apply clippings as mulch.

### III. Education & Volunteerism

- Recruit 2 neighbors to sign up!
- Allow site/yard to be showcased in yard tours.
- Volunteer for the Habitat Haven Program.
- Attend continuing education classes, e.g. through UWSWCD, OSU extension office, Audubon or [pollinator.org](http://pollinator.org).
- Participate in OSU Extension Master Gardener Programs.
- Volunteer for City of Eugene Native plant nursery, Mount Pisgah, Hendrick’s park, etc. See links.

### IV. Pesticides Reduction

See resources for information on how to garden without pesticides.

For Red and Yellow Zone rated chemicals, see Grow Smart Grow Safe:

<https://www.growsmartgrowsafe.org/Products?pesticideTypeId=12>

### V. Invasive Plant Removal

#### Silver weeds

Evergreen & Armenian blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus* and *Rubus armeniacus*), Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Ivy (all cultivars, *Hedra* spp.), Knotweed\* (*Polygonum* spp.), Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), Policeman’s helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Scot’s broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Spotted/Meadow & Diffuse knapweeds

(*Centaurea* spp.), Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Traveler's joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

### **Gold weeds**

Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii* – all varieties), False brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Hedge bindweed\* (*Calystegia sepium*), Italian Arum\* (*Arum italicum*), Japanese butterbur (*Petasites japonica*), Lesser celandine\* (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Pampas grass/jubata grass (*Cortaderia* spp.), Robert geranium (*Geranium robertianum*), Shining geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) Invasive Trees, under 20ft: Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), English Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

### **Platinum weeds**

Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), English/Portuguese Laurel (*Prunus* spp.), Fennel (*Foeniculum* spp.), Large & Small-leaf periwinkle (*Vinca* spp.), Reed canarygrass/Ribbon Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) Invasive Trees, over 20ft: Black Locust, English Hawthorn, English holly, Norway maple, Tree-of-heaven