



Back To Our Roots Program – Terms and Certification Criteria for Large Lots (potential planting area >100 m²/1,000 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. Landowners may request a review to update the certification level or amend the stewardship agreement at any time before the 3 year term ends.
- **Reporting:**
 - Level 1 – annual site visit from a BTOR representative and completed checklist form for reporting (agreement/certification compliance, total area naturescaped to date, # sp planted, area planted during review period, invasive plant species and estimated area managed, estimate of BTOR project hours, etc.).
 - Level 2 – annual ph call or site visit from a BTOR representative and completed checklist form for reporting (same as for Level 1). Site visit required for renewal before the end of the 3 year term.

Certification Criteria

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 3%** 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, **must include food, water and shelter**):
 - 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. natural source, water garden or pond (note: American Bullfrog management may be required), maintained bird or bug bath.
 - Cover/nesting areas** - e.g. trees and shrubs; dead snag or nurse log; rock wall or pile; brush pile; leaf litter; 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:
 - Reduce impervious surfaces** and/or **grass** (e.g. use stepping stones, gravel, bark mulch, or porous paver grids to replace concrete or asphalt driveways and sidewalks; let moss take over the lawn, or replace with other native plants) – 5 m²/50 ft² or more.
 - Let the **lawn go dormant** in the summer and hand water or use **drip/leaky pipe irrigation** on a timer for other plants. **Water** plants only 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.
 - Create **rain gardens** where appropriate.

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
du gouvernement du Canada.

Canada 

Certification Criteria



Level 2 (Gold)

1. Sign the **Stewardship Agreement**.

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 10%** 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, **must include food, water and shelter**):
 - 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. natural source, water garden or pond (note: American Bullfrog management may be required), maintained bird or bug bath.
 - Cover/nesting areas** - e.g. trees and shrubs; dead snag or nurse log; rock wall or pile; brush pile; leaf litter; 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 2 water use reduction** measures:
 - Reduce impervious surfaces** and/or **grass** (e.g. use stepping stones, gravel, bark mulch, or porous paver grids to replace concrete or asphalt driveways and sidewalks; let moss take over the lawn, or replace with other native plants) – 5 m²/50 ft² or more.
 - Let the **lawn** go **dormant** in the summer and hand water or use **drip/leaky pipe irrigation** on a timer for other plants. **Water** plants only 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.
 - Create **rain gardens** where appropriate.

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. Choose **at least 1** initiative from the Volunteerism list:
 - Volunteer** at habitat **stewardship** work parties in a local park.
 - Recruit** at least 1 neighbour to sign-up for the BTOR program.
 - Allow your site to be showcased in a **yard tour**.
 - Volunteer** for the **BTOR** program.

9. Install the **BTOR yard sign** (optional).

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The logo for the Government of Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag icon above the letter "a".