



Backyard Habitat Certification Program

CERTIFICATION LEVELS

Silver:

- Remove 100% of tier one aggressive weeds from property
- Naturescape at least 5% of available property with native plants
 - Include at least 3 out of 6 canopy levels
- Pick at least one item from each of Stormwater and Wildlife Stewardship menus
- Develop plan to reach Gold Certification (recommended)

Gold:

- Meet all requirements of Silver level
- Remove 100% of tier two aggressive weeds from property
- Naturescape at least 15% of available property with native plants
 - Include at least 4 of the 6 canopy levels
- Pick two items from each of Stormwater and Wildlife Stewardship menus
- Develop plan to reach Platinum Certification (recommended)

Platinum:

- Meet all requirements of Silver and Gold levels
- Remove 100% of tier three aggressive weeds from property
- Naturescape at least 50% of property with native plants
 - Include at least 5 out of 6 canopy levels
- Pick 3 items from each of Stormwater and Wildlife Stewardship menus
- Pick one item from Education and Volunteerism menu

MENU ITEMS

Wildlife Stewardship

- Install a wildlife water feature
- Install avian nest boxes for native species
- Install bat houses
- Install Mason bee houses
- Convert outdoor cats to living indoors
- Participate in backyard Citizen Science
- Plant 3 native plants that provide food for wildlife

Stormwater Management**

- Create a stormwater planter
- Plant or have a large canopy tree over impervious surface for stormwater absorption
- Plant or have a large canopy tree in other part of garden
- Install rain garden
- Disconnect downspouts (where appropriate)
- Have grass or impervious pavement on less than 5% of property (minus house)
- Install an ecoroof
- Use integrated pest management.

**Stormwater options are different for each property. It is important to research the most appropriate items for your site before implementation.

Education and Volunteerism

- Recruit 2 neighbors
- Allow site/yard to be showcased in garden tours or Metro tour
- Volunteer for Certification Program and/or mentor other Backyard Habitat homeowners
- Attend continuing education classes
- Participate in OSU Extension Master Gardener Programs

Aggressive Weeds

Tier One

- False Brome, Pokeweed, Garlic Mustard, Butterfly Bush, Yellow Flag Iris, Purple Loosestrife, Knotweed, Traveler's Joy, Scot's Broom, English Ivy, Giant Hogweed, Himalayan and Evergreen Blackberry

Tier Two

- Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed, Shining and Robert Geranium, Field Bindweed, Lesser Celandine, Spurge Laurel, Norway Maple*, Tree-of-heaven*, English Holly* (*Large trees exempt for gold but not for Platinum level)

Tier Three

- Policeman's Helmet, Spatulaleaf Loosestrife, Large and Small-leaf Periwinkle, Fennel, Reed Canarygrass.