Voluntary Codes of Conduct For The Gardening Public

EXAMPLE

Date:

Participating Club: ______________________ (Your club name here) ______________________

Club Contact:
(President or other club member responsible for coordinating this program)

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The examples below each code (in italics) are to provide you with ideas on what tasks your business can do to implement the codes of conduct. The tasks are varied to reflect the needs of different types of businesses like landscape installers, consultants, and landscape architects. Please develop your own set of tasks that are appropriate for your business.

1. Ask for only non-invasive species when you acquire plants. Plant only environmentally safe species in your gardens. Work towards and promote new landscape design that is friendly to regional ecosystems.

EXAMPLE:
 a. We will create a list of environmentally safe plants for our region and encourage all club members to check the list before purchasing new plants.

2. Seek information on which species are invasive in your area. Sources could include botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies. Remove invasive species from your land and replace them with non-invasive species suited to your site and needs.

EXAMPLE:
 a. We will contact ____________, _______________, and ____________ to help us put together a list of acceptable plants and a list of plants we should avoid.

3. Do not trade plants with other gardeners if you know they are species with invasive characteristics.

EXAMPLE:
 a. Before we hold our next “plant divide” or other event in which we swap plants we will make sure all members are aware of the plants that are acceptable to bring.

 b. Before we hold our next plant sale we will make sure all participants only bring acceptable
plants.

4. Request that botanical gardens and nurseries promote, display and sell only non-invasive species.

**EXAMPLE:**

a. We will contact the following nurseries 1. X 2. Y 3. Z ..., provide information about invasive plants, and request they stop selling known local invasives.

b. We will invite representatives from XYZ nurseries and Botanical Garden to our next meeting to discuss their participation in adopting Voluntary Codes of Conduct and how we can help.

c. We will work with XYZ nurseries and the local botanical garden to develop, produce, and distribute educational information regarding invasive plants in our region.

5. Help educate your community and other gardeners in your area through personal contact, and in such settings as garden clubs and other civic groups.

**EXAMPLE:**

a. We will create an outreach presentation and offer to give a talk to the following list of civic groups: 1. ____ 2. ____ 3. ____ ...

6. Ask garden writers and other media to emphasize the problem of invasive species and provide information. Request that garden writers promote only non-invasive species.

**EXAMPLE:**

a. Our Garden Club will work on developing a regular column for the local newspaper or include more discussion of invasive plants in our existing column.

b. We will invite local garden writers to a special Garden Club meeting that will focus on the issue of invasive plants.

c. We will hold a letter writing campaign to national magazines, TV shows, etc. to alert them to the issues of invasives and provide solutions. This may include a list of alternative plants for specific invasives.

7. Invite speakers knowledgeable on the invasive species issue to speak to garden clubs, master gardeners, schools and other community groups.

**EXAMPLE:**

a. We will invite guest speakers for our club at least 3 times a year to share information on the latest threats or new alternative plant ideas.

b. We will form a speaker’s bureau for invasive plants and advertise with civic groups, government agencies, and other organizations.
8. Seek the best information on control of invasive plant species and organize neighborhood work groups to remove invasive plant species under the guidance of knowledgeable professionals.

**EXAMPLE:**

a. *We will ask local experts to help us be involved in the invasive species management plan for our region.*

b. *We will take on projects throughout our community that include removal and replacement of invasive plants from businesses, common areas, and other sites.*

9. Volunteer at botanical gardens and natural areas to assist ongoing efforts to diminish the threat of invasive plants.

**EXAMPLE:**

a. *We will set up work days at the ______Botanical Garden to help them remove their invasive plants and plant alternatives.*

10. Participate in early warning systems by reporting invasive species you observe in your area. Determine which group or agency should be responsible for reports emanating from your area. If no 800 number exists for such reporting, request that one be established, citing the need for a clearinghouse with an 800 number and website links to information about invasive plant species.

**EXAMPLE:**

a. *We will participate in the (DNR, Museum, etc.) early detection program by adopting a specific area to patrol.*

b. *We will set up a chat page on our web site for club members to share information on suspected new invasive plants. We will then share that information with the appropriate authorities.*

11. Assist garden clubs to create policies regarding the use of invasive species not only in horticulture, but in activities such as flower shows. Urge florists and others to eliminate the use of invasive plant material.

**EXAMPLE:**

a. *We will create an Invasive Plant Plan providing for guidelines for our role as a Garden Club when it comes to invasive plants. We can summarize all of the above as to our conduct individually and as a club and the information and services we can provide. This would be a document that we can share with other clubs and organizations.*

b. *We will contact the following florists 1.____ 2.____ 3.____ to make sure they do not use invasive plant products in their arrangements.*