

Voluntary Codes of Conduct For Landscape Architects EXAMPLE



Date:

Participating Business: _____ (Your Businesses Name)

Business Contact:

(Person representing your business that would best know the status of this program)

Name

phone

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. Seek out education and information on invasive species issues:

a. Work with local plant ecologists, horticulturists, nurseries, botanic gardens, conservation organizations and others to determine what species in your region either are currently highly invasive or show aggressive potential. Investigate species under consideration that may present a threat.

b. Increase interaction with other professionals and non-professionals to identify alternative plant material and other solutions to problems caused by harmful invasive plants.

c. Take advantage of continuing education opportunities to learn more about invasive species issues.

EXAMPLE:

- A. *We will check any new plant that we are considering to use with the local invasive plant list (a list developed through a process that has been accepted in your region) to make sure it isn't listed as invasive or a potential threat.*
- B. *If this new plant has not been tested using a weed assessment/screening tool, then we will not use or recommend it until it has been tested.*
- C. *One of my employees or myself will regularly attend our local Invasive Plant Council, or other similar working group meetings to stay informed on the issues and share the issues from our industry.*
- D. *One of my employees or myself will attend a class on invasive plants given by*
_____.

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2. Identify and specify non-invasive species that are aesthetically and horticulturally suitable alternatives to invasive species in your region.

EXAMPLE:

- A. *We will work with local invasive plant networks, like _____ to identify alternative plants for each of the invasive plants that we will no longer be recommending and offer those to our clients.*
- B. *We will take Alternative Plant Fact Sheets with us to clients to leave as recommendations to replace invasive plants they may have chosen.*
- C. *We will make sure any plant we recommend for use is safe, not invasive, as deemed by local experts, weed risk assessments, or other means used in this region.*

3. Eliminate specification of species that are invasive in your region.

EXAMPLE:

- A. *We will stop recommending the following plants*:*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**Choose plants from your inventory that are considered invasive to the region in which these plants will be installed. Plant species will vary depending on the region. Things to consider include: 1. If the invasive plant is transported by animals carrying fruit, then you may want to also restrict recommending plants within a reasonable boundary zone (check with local experts); 2. There does not have to be exact agreement by a local group of participating businesses as to which plants to remove from sale or to use as alternatives; 3. Choose plants that would be most helpful to reduce the threat of invasion, especially if it is not yet widespread but has a high potential AND that will not be a burden to your business.*

4. Be aware of potential environmental impacts beyond the designed and managed area of the landscape plan (e.g. plants may spread to adjacent natural area or cropland).

EXAMPLE:

- A. *We will find out what the recommended distance from natural areas is so that we can maintain a safe zone from plants we recommend that may be considered invasive to a neighboring region.*

5. Encourage nurseries and other suppliers to provide landscape contractors and the public with non-invasive plants.

EXAMPLE:

- A. *We will work with our suppliers to phase out the invasive species for the region in which we work.*

- B. We will encourage our suppliers to participate in the Voluntary Codes of Conduct program and restrict invasive plants that we can agree upon.*
- C. We will work with local nurseries to develop demonstration gardens highlighting non-invasive alternatives.*

6. Collaborate with other local experts and agencies in the development and revision of local landscape ordinances. Promote inclusion of invasive species issues in these ordinances.

EXAMPLE:

- A. We will work with City/County/State officials to revise recommended street trees, common ground landscaping, or other lists of recommended plants from government municipalities.*
- B. We will work with our local municipality, invasive species networks, etc. to revise weed ordinances so that they will not discourage planting native plants and will address not only those officially listed invasive plants but those that are recommended by local experts as invasive.*
- C. We will work with our local newspapers to submit articles/advertisements highlighting alternative plants to be used in landscaping.*
- D. We will submit articles for our industry newsletters encouraging others to not use invasive plants.*
- E. We would like to be listed on web sites that promote businesses who are participating in this voluntary program.*