

Six Principles for Landscape Waste Reduction

As our communities strive to find new ways to reduce waste, green industry professionals can play an important role by reducing the quantity of waste they generate at the job site. As many landscape professionals know, this can be accomplished through adopting one or more of the following "Principles" for landscape waste reduction.

Healthy Soil: Good soil supports healthy plant growth and diminishes the need for excessive irrigation and fertilization. A good soil consists of soil clusters (aggregates), air space, and organic matter holding a variety of important micro-nutrients. In combination, these factors produce a soil that retains moisture, soil air, and nutrients that will support healthy growth of the landscape. Healthy soil must be created and maintained. By adding compost (humus) or by mulching, poor soil can be transformed over time into a healthier growing medium for landscaping.

Use Waste Efficient/Low Maintenance Landscaping: Select slow growth plantings that require less maintenance. How do you find

slow growth plants? Drought tolerant plants, by their nature, are also slow growth and produce less waste. Consult the "Water Use Classification of Landscape Species" (WUCOLS) list to determine which drought tolerant varieties will grow best in your region. In addition to selecting slow growth/drought tolerant plants, consider placement and spacing. Don't place plantings in tight spaces where minimal growth will require pruning. Proper spacing between plants allows more natural growth, minimizing the need for excessive pruning.

Irrigate Efficiently and Limit Fertilization: Excessive watering and fertilization results in faster growth, requiring more maintenance and disposal of waste. Use water-efficient irrigation equipment such as drip or low output sprinkler heads and water landscaping according to specific needs. Also use the needs of landscaping to determine how much and when to fertilize. Normally, moderate applications of fertilizers in spring and fall are all that is needed to support healthy and attractive growth.

Shred and Mulch! Using shredded green waste as a mulch makes a lot of sense, especially if you have a large quantity of green waste material with wood content. Mulching provides a variety of benefits, including weed prevention, moisture retention, mud abatement, and erosion control. As an added benefit, when the mulch decomposes, it will help condition the soil and add nutrients.

Prune Conservatively: A large contributor of waste is excessive and haphazard pruning of shrubs and trees. Pruning should be limited to maintain controlled but natural growth patterns. "Topping" or "shearing" where large quantities of material are removed is wasteful and unhealthy. It also will encourage new and excessive growth.

Limit Turf Areas: Grass lawns are heavy contributors of waste, especially during the warmer months. Lawns also require large amounts of water. By removing or reducing turf areas, maintenance, waste disposal, and irrigation requirements can be reduced. Removal of small, irregular shaped turf areas eliminates difficult mowing transitions which results in easier maintenance. Replace grass with slow-growth, drought tolerant ground covers for attractive landscaping with significantly lower maintenance requirements and costs.

Local government and waste management agencies are working hard to find solutions for cutting waste. Landscape generated waste continues to be a significant part of waste sent to the landfill. Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano Counties have joined with the California

Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to form the Landscape Management Outreach Partnership (LMOP). The partnership's goal is to promote the practices described here to assist professional landscapers and other large generators to reduce waste. If you would like additional information on green waste reduction, please contact the Partnership at (925) 906-1801. For additional information about green waste reduction, visit the CIWMB website.



The ONLY soil surfactant proven to PREVENT water repellency, localized dry spots and uneven soil wetting by improving the Matrix Flow of water in the rootzone.

Proven to work better than once a season surfactants.



Specifically designed to TREAT localized dry spots or wet areas and promote turf RECOVERY.

No other soil surfactant solves existing problems better.



The INJECTABLE soil penetrant that increases water infiltration through thatch and into the rootzone. Improves overall turf quality.

Now 43% more active ingredient makes InfilRx even more effective and economical to use.



Improves the performance of turf management chemicals such as herbicides and insecticides. Controls dew formation on greens, tees or fairways.

A highly effective non-ionic surfactant/wetter.

Turf Supply Company
Aquatrols Turf
Product Distributor

Larry Lennert
Aquatrols
Territory Manager

2797 Egandale Blvd.
Egan, MN 55121
Phone: (800) 551-4857
Fax: (651) 454-7884

5075 W. Coldspring Road
Greenfield, WI 53220
Phone: (414) 545-0259
larry.lennert@aquatrols.com
www.aquatrols.com