



CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

Silver Level

Invasive Species: Actively manage all silver weeds

Native Plants: Landscape >15% of the outdoor area with plants native to the Intermountain West. Include at least 2 of the 4 vegetation layers, but not each layer needs to be native, especially trees.

Pesticide Reduction: No use of neonicotinoids and move toward use of low hazard pesticides.

Water Management: Practice at least two items from the Water Management list below.

Wildlife Friendly Home: Practice at least three items from the WFH list below. You must create a plan to reduce wildlife impacts from your outdoor cat if you have one.

Learn, Advocate and Volunteer: Practice at least two items from the Learn, Advocate and Volunteer list below.

Gold Level

Invasive Species: Actively manage all silver and gold weeds

Native Plants: Landscape >50% of the outdoor area plants native to the Intermountain West. Include at least 3 of the 4 vegetation layers, but not each layer needs to be native, especially trees.

Pesticide Reduction: No use of neonicotinoids. No spraying for spiders. No use of high hazard pesticides.

Water Management: Practice at least four items from the Water Management list below.

Wildlife Friendly Home: Practice at least five items from the WFH list below. Cats must be kept indoors or in outdoor enclosure 100% of the time.

Learn, Advocate and Volunteer: Practice at least four items from the Learn, Advocate and Volunteer list below.

Apartment/Patio Level

Native Plants: Grow at least three plants native to the Intermountain West for at least seven months.

Pesticide Reduction: Don't use pesticides.

Water Management: Practice at least two items from the Water Management list below.

Wildlife Friendly Home: Practice at least two items from the Wildlife Friendly Home list below.

Learn, Advocate and Volunteer: Practice at least two items from the Learn, Advocate and Volunteer list below.

Wildlife Friendly Home

- Treat one or more windows to reduce bird window collisions.
- Turn off outdoor lighting during bird migration (March to May and August to November) – or all year.
- Provide a wildlife water feature (natural source or a maintained bird or insect bath).
- At least one bird nest box, appropriate to native species and appropriately maintained.
- Leave snags or supply nurse logs.
- Provide beneficial insect nesting habitat (rock piles, bundles of stems and branches, areas of bare dirt/sand, maintained bee houses).
- Provide six or more plants (annuals or perennials) beneficial to pollinators

- Leave your leaves on the ground and plants standing in the fall.
 - Wait to clean up in spring until the end of April or when the large bumble bees have emerged.
 - Plant a native pollinator meadow that blooms through the growing season.
 - Do not spray home for spiders.
 - Other—discuss with your Habitat Patch Adviser.
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Water Management

- Use a programmable or timed watering system.
 - Use a drip system on all or some of your vegetation.
 - Turn your irrigation off during and right after significant rain.
 - Maintain your irrigation system annually to eliminate leaks and over spraying.
 - Irrigate at least 50% of your landscape no more than monthly.
 - Direct property stormwater to permeable surfaces or a cistern.
 - Mulch at least 50% of your plants.
 - If you have lawn, use low-water turf grass.
 - Collect shower/sink water while you're waiting for it to warm up and use on your plants.
 - Reuse water you use to wash your vegetables.
 - Other—discuss with your Habitat Patch Adviser.
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Learn, Advocate and Volunteer

- Recruit 2 friends or neighbors to join the Habitat Patch Program.
 - If you live in a neighborhood with an HOA, ask them to support homeowners working to get certified.
 - Volunteer twice a year for a community habitat restoration project (Boise River ReWild, Native Plant Network, Idaho Native Plant Society, City of Boise Weed Warrior Workday, etc).
 - Take at least 2 classes per year about habitat restoration and planting for birds and pollinators.
 - Participate in the Idaho Master Naturalist Program.
 - Participate in the ISU Master Gardener Program.
 - Participate in Ada Soil and Water Conservation District Pollinator Project.
 - Participate in at least one community science project per year such as iNaturalist, eBird, or Audubon Christmas Bird Count.
 - Other—discuss with your Habitat Patch Adviser.
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Silver Weeds

Bur buttercup, knapweeds, Canada and musk thistles, field bindweed, jointed goat grass, poison hemlock, puncturevine, knotweeds, tree of Heaven, creeping Charlie, purple mustard, cheese weed, annual poa, spurgees, filaree, Lambs quarters, Nutsedge, Plantains, Kochia, and wood sorrel (Oxalis).

Gold Weeds

Rush skeleton weed, white top, yellow toadflax, cheatgrass, bulbous blue grass. Crab grass, Quack grass, Green Foxtail, ground Ivy (Glechoma hederacea), and Horse tail.

Intermountain West [Native Plant List](#)

Vegetation layers

Ground layer For example: Leaf litter, clover, perennial grass

Small and medium shrub layer (2 – 10 ft. when mature) For example: Golden Currant, Snowberry

Understory tree canopy - between 10 - 30 ft. tall when mature For example: Hawthorne, crabapple, apple, plums, hackberries, mountain ash

Overstory tree canopy - more than 30 ft. tall when mature For example: Black Cottonwood, Blue Spruce

