



LANDSCAPING & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Benton Clean Air Authority, 650 George Washington Way, Richland, WA 99352 509/943-3396

What does this mean?

This means planning of landscape plantings that reduce or minimize the generation of vegetative residue to alleviate or avoid disposal of large amounts of material by burning or alternative means.

WHY ALTERNATIVES

After December 31, 2000 residential and land clearing burning will not be allowed within the urban growth areas of cities or where there are reasonable alternatives. Except for residential burning, which is exempt from a permit, outside the urban growth areas it will be necessary to obtain a written permit from the Benton Clean Air Authority for other types of burning. Vegetative residue cannot be hauled from an area where burning is prohibited to an area where burning is allowed.

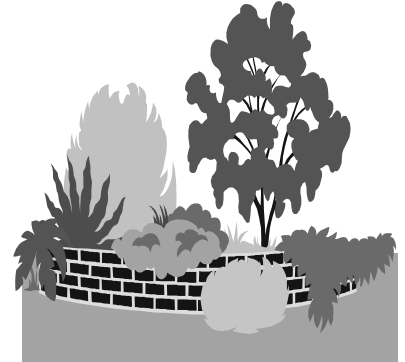
This information is intended to briefly explain who, how, and why landscaping and vegetation management could be used as an alternative to burning. Use of alternatives to burning is encouraged even in areas where burning is not prohibited.

WHO COULD USE LANDSCAPE AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT?

- Individuals at private residences.
- Any entity that has landscaping and associated vegetation that generates residues and debris.
- Regional community-based composting by cities or counties.

WHY SHOULD I MANAGE MY LANDSCAPE AND VEGETATION?

- This alternative is an example of reducing the magnitude of the problem or avoiding it all together.



- The principle involved is to plan or renovate a landscape that simply contains fewer or smaller plants, or plants that inherently do not generate residues so that large amounts of vegetative debris are simply not produced

HOW DO I MANAGE MY LANDSCAPE AND VEGETATION?

- If you are in the planning stages of landscaping research yourself or find expert advisors who can tell you how to meet the objectives of minimizing trimming and pruning. Some compromises will undoubtedly have to be made.
- In an existing landscape start with an analysis of what you have then decide what can be or what you would be willing to change to meet the principles of reducing vegetative residues.
- Timely maintenance like regular intervals of trimming and pruning will avoid having to deal with excessive overgrowth, larger limbs, high volumes and weight of materials. This incremental approach will at least divide the task into manageable pieces.
- Conversion of lawn, high-density flower or shrub beds, and similar areas to low growing ground covers or even mulch or rock covers with more sparse vegetation is an approach.

- Covering vegetated areas with mulch, rock, gravel, concrete, asphalt, pavers, bare compacted or chemically stabilized soil with strict vegetation control is another step up in reduction of vegetative residues.
- A somewhat radical approach compared to actively managed landscape is to consider establishment of naturally vegetated areas that following initial establishment are pretty much left alone. The areas itself absorbs and recycles the vegetative residues.
- One approach for arid areas such as we have here is xeriscaping, which uses only vegetation that can be sustained by normal precipitation amounts is self limiting of vegetative production in arid climates.
- Permanent annual species of shrubs and trees can be selected that minimize the need for trimming and pruning.
- Annual plants can also be selected that generate less residue at the end of the season.

DOWNSIDE AND PROBLEMS

- Requires considerable effort and possible high expenses for extensively planned or renovated landscapes.
- May not be for everyone as the other objectives in having your particular landscape could conflict with these reduction principles. However, almost any landscape could be planned to provide some reduction in potential to generate vegetative residues.
- Extensive use of naturally vegetated areas, especially xeriscaping, could heighten vulnerability to fire hazard.

MORE INFORMATION

Weed Control

- Yellow Pages: *Weed Control, Lawn & Grounds Maintenance*
- WA State Weed Association 509/547-5538
- Benton Co. Noxious Weed Control 509/786-6988
- Franklin Co. Noxious Weed Control 509/545-3847

Landscaping

- Yellow Pages: *Tree Service, Lawn & Grounds Maintenance*
- WA State University Master Gardeners 509/735-3551 or 509/786-2226 or <http://gardening.wsu.edu/eastside>
- Internet
 - Search Term: *xeriscape, low water use landscaping*

Chipping and Mulching

- Yellow Pages: *Tree Service, Lawn & Grounds Maintenance, Landscape Equipment & Supplies, Hardware – Retail*
- WA State University Master Gardeners 509/735-3551 or 509/786-2226 or <http://gardening.wsu.edu/eastside>

Landfill and Transfer Information

- Waste Management of Kennewick 509/582-5121
- Kennewick Transfer Station Kennewick 509/586-7555
- Richland Landfill 509/942-7498
- Richland Solid Waste Collection 509/942-7497
- Basin Disposal Inc. (Prosser, Benton City, and Benton County) 509/547-2476
- Ed's Disposal (W Richland or Benton City) 509/547-2476

On-Site Burial

- No restrictions in cities. Call if burying large amounts.
- No restrictions in Benton County on small amounts, larger amounts may need to be permitted 509/736-3086 or 509/786-5621