



# Do You Have a Certified Green Gardener?

If resource conservation is important to you, let your landscaping show it.

**The Green Gardener Certification Program will help you find professionals who can make your landscape healthy and beautiful without wasting resources.**

## Landscapes affect the environment:

Many people are concerned about the impacts our yards and landscapes may have upon the environment. We want to prevent fertilizers and pesticides from moving into our ground, creek and ocean waters. We strive to keep yard waste out of our landfills. We hope to supply the right amount of water to let our gardens thrive, without wasting a drop.

If you are paying for professional landscape services, you want to be sure that those services are working towards these same goals.

## A “Green” Landscape can save you money:

Garden inputs are not cheap. By reducing water, pesticides, fertilizers and other materials you will prevent waste and save money. A Certified Green Gardener may spend more time initially, programming your irrigation controller, checking for sprinkler leaks or mulching for example, but in the long run the cost savings from a resource efficient, properly managed landscape can be significant. You may be surprised how much you can save in water and dumping fees alone! Beyond that, a properly designed and maintained landscape doesn't need as many resources, and can take better care of itself. A 'Green' landscape should require fewer materials and have fewer problems than a conventional landscape. This makes a healthy garden, and a healthy garden is a beautiful garden.

## Customize your landscaping services:

Since Certified Green Gardeners are diverse in their professional skills, the degree of resource conservation, the cost and the ultimate service provided are not dictated by the program. You can customize your landscape maintenance plan to fit your resource conservation and landscaping needs.

## Trained Professionals:

By hiring a Certified Green Gardener, you'll know that you are hiring someone who has been trained and tested in resource efficient landscape management practices. Perhaps more importantly, you will be working with someone who has spent time with peers and expert trainers examining these complex issues.

- Water efficiency
- Green waste reduction
- Fertilizer management
- Pesticide reduction
- Low maintenance plant material selection
- Pollution prevention

Certified Green Gardeners have at their fingertips the printed and personal resources needed to make environmentally responsible, economically sound decisions.

If your gardener is not certified as a Green Gardener, urge him or her to attend our next training session.

## How it works:

Landscape service providers participate in a specific course of study and pass an exam to become certified. Only individuals may become certified, not companies. Participants are re-certified annually based upon continuing education and review of their work.

Certified Green Gardeners earn the right to display and advertise the Green Gardener logo. Look for this logo when seeking landscaping services, or ask your gardener if he or she is certified.

## Sponsored by:

- Santa Barbara Community College District
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- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
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- County of Santa Barbara Solid Waste & Utilities Division Water Agency
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- Casa de la Raza
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For a current list of Certified Green Gardeners, a client packet or a participant packet, please call Phil Boise at 963-0583 ext. 150, or visit us at [www.greengardener.org](http://www.greengardener.org) or contact one of the sponsors listed above.

