

Native Landscaping BMP - Supplemental Information for HIP Professionals



PURPOSE

This document includes guidance and resources for HIP certified professionals to aid in the design, permit application, and installation of the HIP Native Landscaping BMP. It supplements guidance and submittal forms included in the Lake Whatcom Homeowner Incentive Program Design Manual (Version 2 March 2018, pages 17-20). The BMP design standards and permitting requirements have not changed.

ADDITIONAL NATIVE LANDSCAPING BMP DESIGN, SUBMITTAL & INSTALLATION RESOURCES

- **HIP Plant List** – This list was developed for the HIP Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Native Landscaping program. It is a helpful tool to develop a plant list for a HIP project. It includes native plants that meet HIP criteria for reimbursement organized by canopy layer with information on soil moisture requirements, mature size, and additional helpful notes. It also functions as a reference tool to match common plant names with correct scientific name for species native to Washington State. Available for download at: <https://www.lakewhatcomhip.org/resources-2/>
- **Landscaping with Native Plants** – This booklet was developed for the DIY Native Landscaping program.; however, HIP certified designers may find the information on site analysis, planting plan development, and project installation helpful. Available for download at: <https://www.lakewhatcomhip.org/resources-2/>
- **King County Planting Plans** — The King County Native Plant Guide offers helpful tools to develop native landscape planting plans. Explore the website at <https://green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/>. Download a packet of King County example planting plans with plant lists at <https://www.lakewhatcomhip.org/resources-2/>
- **HIP Native Landscaping Planting Worksheet**—Used in the DIY Native Landscaping program, this is a fillable excel spreadsheet version of the plant density calculator submittal form (Lake Whatcom Homeowner Incentive Program Design Manual Version 2 March 2018, page 20). It includes space for a short plant list. This worksheet can be

used instead of the plant density calculator in HIP project applications. Available for download at: <https://www.lakewhatcomhip.org/resources-2/>

- **HIP Native Landscaping Plant List Template**– This is a new plant list template tool in an excel spreadsheet format. It guides designers to create plant lists that meet HIP design criteria, and using it helps the permit review and approval process. Add rows as needed, or use this template as a guide to format a plant list using different software. Available for download at: <https://www.lakewhatcomhip.org/resources-2/>
- **Standard Sediment Erosion Control Measures** – The following sediment erosion control measures are applicable to HIP native landscaping projects. HIP professionals may incorporate elements from this list into the SWPPP narrative as if they are applicable to a specific project.
 1. Mulch will be stockpiled in a location where it will not enter any waterway (e.g., catch basin, ditch, stream, or lake).
 2. Supplies (e.g., tarps & weights) will be available to cover mulch stockpiles to prevent erosion in the event of a rain or wind storm. Stockpiles will be secured prior to a storm event.
 3. Ground disturbing activities will be limited to removing weeds, plants, and debris as need prior to mulching and digging individual holes for each plant.
 4. Disturbed soils will be covered by at least 4 inches of mulch.
 5. Delivery vehicles will stay on durable, non-erodible surfaces to avoid tracking sediment onto driveways, streets, or alleys.
 6. If sediment is tracked off site, the affected area will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day, or more frequently as necessary, by shoveling or sweeping the sediment to a secure location (e.g., mulched planting area).
- **Planting In Challenging Conditions** – If you discover rocky or clay soils in your planting area that make planting conditions difficult, please consult with the HIP Coordinator for site-specific recommendations. In general, use of compost or topsoil as a soil amendment is not reimbursable through HIP and is not the best practice for plant success. Planting in native soil (no potting soil, no soil amendments) encourages new plant roots to expand and grow beyond the hole dug for planting. Adding extra approved low-phosphorus mulch is reimbursable and will feed the soil over time as it breaks down. The HIP Coordinator can help you determine the best course of action to address challenging planting conditions while also ensuring materials used remain eligible for reimbursement through HIP. Remember that fertilizer and soil amendments containing phosphorus are not allowed in the Lake Whatcom watershed.

- **Allowed Use of Compost and Topsoil** – Compost and top soil from the City of Bellingham Approved Mulch, Topsoil, and Compost for Use in the Lake Whatcom Watershed list (see HIP Material Suppliers document at <https://www.lakewhatcomhip.org/resources/>) are allowed for use in HIP projects as needed to restore areas damaged during construction (e.g., ruts in a lawn from heavy equipment, restoring a temporary construction access site or materials stockpile area). These materials are not included in the HIP Materials Specifications for use as a soil amendment in native landscaping.
- **Blackberries and Invasive Weeds** – Removing blackberries or other invasive plants from a HIP project area prior to replanting with native plants will require planning ahead and take extra time for site preparation. Native landscaping areas where invasive weeds have been removed will also require extra weeding for the first few years to stop new plant growth from seeds or roots. The HIP Coordinator can provide additional site-specific guidance. Reimbursement for weed removal as part of site preparation is reimbursable on a case-by-case basis. Additional technical assistance is available from the Whatcom County Noxious Weed program. Visit <http://whatcomcounty.us/914/Weeds> to download noxious weed fact sheets.
- **General Information on Gardening Practices in the Lake Whatcom Watershed** – The City of Bellingham provides helpful general information on special rules regarding gardening practices in the Lake Whatcom watershed at <https://www.cob.org/Documents/pw/lw/materials-and-practices-guidelines.pdf>