



A Service of University of Georgia Extension

The **Georgia Green Landscape Stewards** certification program was developed by the University of Georgia Extension service as a way to inspire residents and businesses to adopt sustainable landscape management practices. By performing the practices below, we can help protect the natural resources of Georgia for future generations. We look forward to hearing from you about your sustainable landscape activities!

Utilize the following scorecard to determine your sustainability factor to see if your landscape is "Georgia Green". A minimum of 70 points are needed to earn this designation. This form can be filled out on your computer and emailed (or printed out to be mailed in an envelope) to the University of Georgia for evaluation. If you have achieved an action listed below, please check the box under the Action Achieved column. Action items already existing on your landscape do count towards your point total. Please check off the actions that you already were doing along with new sustainable landscape actions. Then tally your points under each topic section, and add them together for your grand total in the last box. Once you reach 70 points or more, you can submit your form for certification.

This form is intended for use with Adobe. Some functions may not be available with other PDF software.

Sustainable Landscape Topic 1: Composting at Home		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
1	Compost yard waste. Leaves, grass clippings, branches, and tree/shrub trimmings. Credit: 4 points	
2	Do not compost weed seed heads or rhizomes, invasive plants, or diseased/insect ridden plants. Credit: 2 points	
3	Compost kitchen scraps. Fruit and vegetable, egg shells, coffee grinds, and even sawdust from the workshop! Credit: 4 points	
4	Do not compost dairy, meat, bones, pet waste, oils, mayo and whole eggs. Credit: 2 points	
5	Turn your compost material regularly to aerate and maintain proper moisture level (a damp sponge). Sprinkle with water to moisten, or add browns - dry leaves, straw, twigs- to reduce moisture. Credit: 3 points	
Topic 1 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 2: Mulch		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
6	Keep tree root flares exposed and leave a few inches of space between mulch and the trunk. Do not pile mulch against the base of the trunk. Credit: 4 points	
7	Use a tree's own leaves as mulch. Credit: 4 points	
8	Form a mulch ring 2 to 3 inches deep to the tree drip line to help compete against grass and other plants for resources. Credit: 3 points	
9	Do not pile mulch to cover small plants. Leave a small space between mulch and the stem while adding mulch 2 to 3 inches deep elsewhere. Credit: 2 points	
Topic 2 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 3: Welcoming Pollinators		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
10	Provide food for pollinators. Bare soil, diverse sources of forage and nectar year round, pollen, insects, and native plants. Credit: 3 points	
11	Provide areas that collect water puddles (rocks, bare soil, leaves, large rocks), birdbaths, or a shallow dish. Credit: 2 points	
12	Provide habitat with shelter. Logs, rock walls, pithy or woody stems, bare soil, or insect hotels. Credit: 4 points	
13	Provide habitat with structure. Vertical vegetation layers (trees - shrubs - ground cover), overgrown vegetation, stumps, logs, brush piles, leaves, stone surfaces. Credit: 3 points	
14	Use pesticides wisely, if you must. Diagnose the pest correctly before treatment, follow the label directions , use low toxicity and selective formulas, use the correct formula, use sprays instead of powders/dusts, mow the lawn before applying, avoid broad application, prevent drift, do not apply during bloom, and spray in the late afternoon or evening. Credit: 4 points	
15	Participate in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census using plants in your garden, https://gsepc.org/ . Learn about pollinators while generating useful data about their populations. Credit: 1 point	
Topic 3 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 4: Welcoming Wildlife		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
16	Provide a food source with native plants: fruits, seed, forage, nectar, and pollen. Credit: 4 points	
17	Do not feed wildlife, other than birds, and do not feed bread to waterfowl. Your native plant landscape will suffice. Credit: 2 points	
18	Clean and sanitize bird seed feeders regularly, and change and sanitize your hummingbird feeders daily in South Georgia, and multiple times per week in North Georgia. Credit: 2 points	
19	Let insects live. They are part of the ecosystem too! Credit: 2 points	
20	Provide water with bird baths, puddles, a shallow dish (with rocks or marbles for insects), plants with cupped leaves, or rocks with depressions. Credit: 2 points	
21	Provide shelter with leaf piles/mulch, decaying logs, stick or log piles, rock piles, snags, diverse vegetation, vertical structure, bird houses, and bat houses. Credit: 4 points	
22	Provide space for wildlife. Dedicate 25% of your landscape as off limits to humans and minimize your passage. Credit: 4 points	
23	Keep your distance. Wildlife do not like being harrassed! Credit: 2 points	
24	Do not use sticky traps, netting, poison, or moth balls. Only passively manage wildlife activity through landscape design. Credit: 3 points	
Topic 4 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 5: Water Quality		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
25	Test your water source for irrigation water quality. Credit: 2 points	
26	If you use fertilizers, use slow release types and avoid over-fertilization. Credit: 4 points	
27	Use integrated pest management and reduce your dependence on pesticides. Credit: 4 points	
28	Avoid pesticide and fertilizer use in the riparian buffer. Credit: 3 points	
29	Create an at-home kit for chemical spills and leaks. Credit: 3 points	
30	Sweep grass clippings, fertilizer and soil from driveways and streets back onto the lawn. Credit: 2 points	
31	Remove yard debris and trash from street gutters so it will not get washed into storm drains. Credit: 3 points	
32	Direct downspouts and gutters to your rain garden or plant beds where rain will soak into the ground rather than run off your yard. Credit: 3 points	
33	Reduce impervious surface coverage by using mulch, stone, or grass paths and parking areas. Credit: 4 points	
34	Prevent soil erosion by using ground cover vegetation and planting beds along land contours. Credit: 4 points	
35	Leave a vegetated riparian buffer between your lawn and streams or ponds. Credit: 4 points	
Topic 5 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 6: Water Conservation		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
36	Design your landscape to use water efficiently. Follow plant requirement guides. Group plants with similar water needs. Include trees and shrubs, and shade gardens. Credit: 4 points	
37	Practice Xeriscaping. Use drought resilient plants, mulch, and efficient irrigation. Credit: 2 points	
38	Include a texture soil test when you submit for your basic soil sample test at your County Extension office. Credit: 2 points	
39	Aerate or amend your soil to store water more efficiently and avoid soil compaction. Credit: 4 points	
40	Adjust mower height higher in the summer by 1 setting and use a mulching mower. Credit: 2 points	
41	Adjust irrigation systems to account for soil moisture or rainwater. Use a rain sensor shut-off. Credit: 3 points	
42	Repair irrigation system pressure issues and leaks. Prevent sprayers from watering paved surfaces. Credit: 3 points	
43	Water plants the correct amount. Credit: 2 points	
44	Use a drip irrigation system for beds, shrubs, and vegetables. Credit: 4 points	
45	Water between 4pm and 10am only. Credit: 2 points	
Topic 6 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 7: Stormwater Management		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
46	Install a rain barrel to reduce stormwater flow from your property. Use it to water your plants! Credit: 3 points	
47	Install a rain garden to accept stormwater from your rooftop, sidewalks, patio, or driveway. Credit: 4 points	
48	Build a bio-swale or vegetated grass swale to move and infiltrate water on your landscape to prevent stormwater and erosion. Credit: 4 points	
49	Install pervious landscape pavers or porous concrete or asphalt in place of your impervious sidewalks or driveway. Credit: 4 points	
50	Install dry wells in stormwater problem areas, such as under downspouts or where rainwater funnels off paved surfaces. Credit: 4 points	
51	Conduct routine maintenance on your Green Infrastructure practice. Remove leaves, sediment, and debris when needed. Have permeable pavement and asphalt cleaned. Credit: 2 points	
52	Divert runoff to maintained stormwater infiltration areas in your lawn and avoid soil compaction. Do not drive or park vehicles through these areas. Credit: 2 points	
Topic 7 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 8: Invasive Plants		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
53	Don't buy or share invasive plants. Credit: 2 points	
54	Physically remove invasive plants, roots, and debris, then burn or bag and dispose in the trash. Credit: 4 points	
55	Apply proper herbicide according to the label, such as glyphosate or triclopyr, to kill invasive plants. Use an aquatic formulation if you are near water. Credit: 4 points	
56	Remove established invasive trees by cutting and painting the trunk with herbicide. Credit: 4 points	
Topic 8 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 9: Native Plants and Low Maintenance Landscapes		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
57	Plant native plants adapted to your climate and natural pests. Credit: 4 points	
58	Put the right plant in the right place! Consider sun, soil moisture, salt tolerance, spacing, and temperature. Plant in groups of three. Credit: 4 points	
59	Use natural mulch and ground cover. Leaves, pine straw, and woody debris. Credit: 4 points	
60	Establish strong roots. Plant correctly, use native plants, and water deeply and infrequently. Credit: 3 points	
Topic 9 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

Sustainable Landscape Topic 10: Encouraging Biodiversity		
<i>ACTION #</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>ACTION ACHIEVED</i>
61	Incorporate diverse plant species in your landscape. Reduce monoculture coverage, such as expansive turf lawns, and remove invasive species. Credit: 4 points	
62	Provide and preserve habitat with food, water, and shelter for a variety of wildlife, including insects. Credit: 3 points	
63	Reduce or eliminate your contributions to pollution, including a pesticide free landscape. Prevent pollution and improper disposal of fertilizer, pesticides, cleaning chemicals, pet waste, and oil/fuel. Pick up trash and reduce consumption and reliance on one-time use products. Credit: 4 points	
64	Keep 25% of your landscape naturally diverse and accept landscape "imperfections". This means less labor and gives you more time to relax and enjoy your other efforts! Credit: 4 points	
Topic 10 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		

GRAND TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:	
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Please email this completed form to University of Georgia Extension Georgia Green Landscape Stewards coordinator at georgiagreen@uga.edu. Or print the completed form and mail through the U.S. Postal Service to: Georgia Green Landscape Stewards Coordinator, University of Georgia Horticulture Department, 120 Carlton St., 1111 Miller Plant Sciences, Athens, GA 30602

The information that you provide below will be used to contact you regarding your certification. Thank you for taking the time to get certified and for all you do to protect Georgia's natural resources!

Name:

Mail

Address:

Phone:

Email:

What county is this landscape in? :

Please indicate if you would prefer your certificate as a paper copy mailed by checking this box:	
Or an electronic copy emailed by checking this box :	
If you would like to order the Georgia Green Landscape Stewards yard sign please check this box and pay \$15.00 online with a credit card on the ' Send Application ' page by clicking on the payment link .	
If you are willing to have your name and town (NOT address) listed in a news article or press release, recognizing you and your certified yard with others across the county or state, please initial here:	



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