



Frequently Asked Questions:

Certification & Registration of Lawn & Landscape Maintenance Professionals

What is the City Landscape Certification?

The City of Marco Island recognizes the importance of water resources to sustaining the economic, environmental and human health of our community. To ensure adequate protection the City requires all lawn and landscape companies working within City Limits to have at least one supervisor plus 10% of staff certified in the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection of water resources in Florida.

What are the steps for a landscape company to become City-certified?

1. Pick up an application for City certification at City Hall:
50 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145; print it from the City's website: www.cityofmarcoisland.com; or contact the City Community Development Department for more information: 239-389-5003.
2. Contact the Rookery Bay Coastal Training Department, at 239-417-6310 ext. 231 to sign up for a scheduled BMP course. Course schedules can be found at <http://ctp.rookerybay.org/index.html> . The course lasts about 7 hours. Lunch is provided. The Registration form and \$25 fee (per person) are due 5 work days prior to the class day. (Visa, MasterCard or checks made payable to the "Friends of Rookery Bay" will be accepted). No registrations taken over the phone. No walk-ins allowed the day of class. ***For other sources of training, please contact the Collier County Agriculture Extension Office at 239-353-4244.**
3. After attending the course, and passing the post test, the State will send you a certificate of completion.
4. An immediate supervisor or business owner needs to deliver or mail the completed City application, employee copies of the State certificate, and a list of all employees who have completed the course (at least one supervisor plus 10% of employees need to have completed the course) to:

Community Development Department
City of Marco Island
50 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, FL 34145

A fee of \$25.00 per company will be due with the application in addition to any decal fees that apply. All company trucks must display decals. The first two decals are free and each additional decal must be purchased for \$5.00 each.

5. Upon review by City staff, if the application is deemed complete, decals indicating City certification will be sent to the business. These decals must be displayed on the left bumper of all work trucks. Random checks of landscaping trucks will occur, so please post the decals on every work truck as soon as you receive them. The City will issue individual wallet cards to those employees who have completed the Best Management Practices (BMP's) course, recognizing them as knowledgeable in BMP's and will apply this knowledge as responsible lawn and landscape maintenance professionals.
6. Renewal of City certification will need to be completed every calendar year. This involves maintaining at least one supervisor and a minimum of 10% certified staff. Those already certified must take a 3 hour refresher course and the company must pay a \$25.00 fee. Course records must be re-submitted to the City.

Who needs to take this course?

All lawn & landscape businesses that provide services within the City limits need to complete this course.

Can lawn and landscape businesses who do not provide services within the City limits take this course?

Absolutely! This course is open to any landscape professional that wants to gain valuable knowledge regarding their profession and wants to help protect the environment. Up to five CEUs are available.

How many people within a business need to be certified? And by when?

At least one supervisor and a minimum of 10% of the employees in a business must be certified by December 30, 2009.

Who do I contact to sign up?

Contact Renee Wilson, Project Greenscape Coordinator at the Rookery Bay Research Reserve at 239-417-6310 ext. 213 or renee.wilson@dep.state.fl.us to sign up for a scheduled course.

Course schedules can be found at <http://ctp.rookerybay.org/index.html>.

The course lasts from 8 am to 3 pm – about 7 hours. Lunch is provided. The Registration form and \$25 fee (per person) are due 5 work days prior to the class day. (Visa, MasterCard or checks made payable to the Friends of Rookery Bay will be accepted). No registrations taken over the phone. No walk-ins allowed the day of class.

What do I get as a part of this training?

- 1) A 6 hour course covering proper application techniques for fertilizer and pesticides, irrigation technologies and techniques, and proper plant selection and placement.

2) Course materials include the BMP manual, other handouts, and a local resource guide that includes all ordinances pertaining to landscaping.

3) Upon passing the post test, a Certificate from the State of Florida will be sent to you.

4) Up to 5 CEU's can be obtained through course completion

5) Wallet card indicating the City recognizes the carrier as being knowledgeable in BMP's.

6) Decals for display on work trucks (first 2 are free, each additional is \$5.00)

If a landscape business is contracted by the City to provide lawn and landscape maintenance services, are the requirements different?

Yes. Any landscape business that is contracted by the City needs to have at least one supervisor certified by the City as well as have 10% of their staff certified within 6 months of entering into a contract with the City. Within 1 year of entering into a contract with the City, 50% of their staff needs to be City certified.

I have an odd number of employees, how many have to take the course to fulfill the City requirement of 10%?

If your company has between 1 to 4 employees, you only need to send a supervisor, who works on-site, to take the BMP course. All other companies, with 5 or more employees, must round up to the nearest whole number when calculating the number of employees required to take the BMP course to satisfy the 10% requirement.

***Please remember:

[ALL companies need to send at least one \(1\) supervisor to get BMP certified.](#)

Number of Employees	Number of Employees need to take course (10%)	Total to take course
1-4	0	1 supervisor
5-10	1	1 employee + 1 supervisor
11-20	2	2 employees + 1 supervisor
21-30	3	3 employees + 1 supervisor
31-40	4	4 employees + 1 supervisor
41-50	5	5 employees + 1 supervisor

*** For additional information, please contact the City of Marco Island at 239-389-5003.**