



OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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YARD BY YARD - CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

Please fill out all the required information. Check all the boxes that apply and submit this checklist with your video or photos. Certification requires that you maintain a pesticide-free yard and utilize 5 practices across 3 of our 4 categories.

Name:

Date:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

- I maintain a pesticide-free yard. (This means no use of synthetic herbicide, pesticide, or pre-emergent applications)

Soil

- Use of organic mulch (non-rubber, non-dyed) such as wood chips or leaves to help build soil organic matter and hold moisture
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/all-you-need-to-know-about-mulch.html>
- On-site Composting system capturing organic waste for use in the landscape
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/backyard-composting-in-oklahoma.html>
- Practice mulch mowing of lawn rather than bagging lawn clippings
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors>
- Improve soil and plant health through compost amendments
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/healthy-garden-soils.html>
- Increase mowing height to at least 3"
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors>

Water

- Xeriscape and/or other heat/drought tolerant plants that require little or no extra water
http://www.forestry.ok.gov/Websites/forestry/images/L-333_Xeriscape_plants.pdf
- Use of efficient irrigation equipment and controllers
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors/irrigation-checkup>
- Utilize rain barrels to capture rainwater for irrigation use
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/design-of-rainwater-harvesting-systems-in-oklahoma.html>
- Use of a rain garden or bioswale to capture, slow and infiltrate rainwater
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/sustainable-landscapes-designing-a-rain-garden-for-residential-property.html>



Food

- Presence of vegetable garden, whether in ground, containerized, or raised bed
<https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/plants-and-animals/crops/vegetables/index.html>
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/container-gardening.html>
- Presence of herb garden for cooking and/or medicinal purposes
<https://havenscapes.com/how-to-plant-an-herb-garden/>
- Use of cover crops or companion plantings
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/earth-kind-gardening-series-cultural-control-practices.html>
- Presence of fruit-producing trees or shrubs
<https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/plants-and-animals/crops/fruits-and-tree-nuts/index.html>
- Integration of grazing/ pasture animals (chickens, goats, etc.)
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/backyard-flock-production.html>
- Maintenance of honeybee hives for honey production
<https://www.oklabees.com/bee-buzz-library>

Habitat

- Use of native or well-adapted plants to Oklahoma
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/oklahoma-proven-plant-selections-for-oklahoma.html>
- Use of host plants for native wildlife (ex. milkweed for monarchs)
<http://www.okiesformonarchs.org/what-to-plant-where-to-buy/>
- Nonnative or invasive plant species excluded or removed from landscape
<https://extension.okstate.edu/topics/plants-and-animals/insects-pests-and-diseases/weeds-and-invasive-plants/index.html>
- Lawn and turf grass areas have been reduced or eliminated
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/utilities/squeeze-every-drop/saving-water-outdoors/lawn-management>
- Functional and flowering lawn species like clover are protected and not mowed
- Plant diversity providing nectar and pollen for wildlife throughout the growing season
<http://www.okiesformonarchs.org/what-to-plant-where-to-buy/>
- Presence of native trees/shrubs creating vertical structure
<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/Websites/forestry/Images/Putting%20Down%20Roots%20-%20OKC.pdf>
- Presence of bee hotels, birdhouses, and/or bat boxes
<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/snags-cavity-trees-and-downed-logs.html>
<https://content.yardmap.org/learn/bee-hotels/>
- Presence of rock or brush pile
<https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlife/wildlife-diversity/landscaping-wildlife>



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If you are submitting a video and/or if you would allow photos/videos of you or your yard to be utilized for educational and promotional purposes, please sign the photo release below.

Photo/Video Release Form

I, _____ (please print) grant permission to the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and the _____ Conservation District the irrevocable and unrestricted right to reproduce the photos/videos images taken of me for the purpose of publication, promotion, illustration, advertising, or trade, in any manner or medium. I hereby release the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and the _____ Conservation District for all claims and liability relating to said images/video. Furthermore, I grant permission to use my statements that were given during an interview, with or without my name, for the purpose of advertising and publicity without restriction. I waive my right to compensation.

I acknowledge that I am over eighteen (18) years of age _____ (initial)

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For District Use Only:

Date Video/Photos Received:

Date Site Visit Completed:

Date Sign Provided:

Follow-up Scheduled For: