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ALCC and CSU Extension Launch ColoradoScaping™ Certification Program to Elevate Landscaping Professionals Acumen for Colorado's Unique Landscape

New professional certification program equips landscape professionals with specific skills to create sustainable and water-efficient landscapes across the state

DENVER, CO – September 25, 2025 – The Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado ([ALCC](#)) and Colorado State University Extension announce the launch of the [ColoradoScaping™ Certification](#) program. This certification is poised to be *THE* Colorado landscaping credential that matters most, an advanced credential that sets professionals apart in the industry as a whole. The program will kick off this winter, designed to train and elevate the professionalism of the landscape workforce in creating sustainable, water-efficient landscapes specifically tailored for Colorado's unique climate and land conditions statewide.

This program directly addresses feedback from companies about under-trained landscapers in the field and delivers hands-on, Colorado-specific training that proves proficiency in creating sustainable, water-efficient landscapes. ColoradoScaping Certification addresses growing concerns about water conservation and rising maintenance costs facing homeowners, HOAs, and commercial properties across Colorado.

The **ColoradoScaping Certification** goes beyond theory, equipping professionals with the expertise to save clients money on rising water costs, reduce water consumption and plant attrition, and design resilient landscapes that thrive in Colorado's unique climate. Through 20 hours of online coursework combined with 15 hours of hands-on training and testing, participants demonstrate measurable skills in irrigation efficiency, plant selection, soil health, and sustainable installation practices.

The goal specifically for water providers and municipalities is to help each achieve water conservation and water savings as core benefits. The environmental benefits range from reduced water usages with efficient irrigation and climate-appropriate plants. The cost savings include lowering water bills and minimizing plant replacement.

"A ColoradoScape is what we call a sustainable and beautiful landscape specifically designed for Colorado's unique climate," said John McMahon, CEO of ALCC. "Transformational landscapes that fit Colorado's climate with native, waterwise plants, efficient irrigation, and even new water-saving turf varieties that look great but use a fraction of the water."

"The ColoradoScaping Certification exemplifies Colorado State University Extension's stewardship in science-based horticulture education and creating resilient, water-wise landscapes that feature plants that will thrive across the entire state's challenging environment," said Katie Dunker, Director of CSU Extension Programs.

The certification program directly addresses escalating challenges facing Colorado communities, water savings, particularly rising water bills and plant replacement costs that impact HOAs and homeowners annually.

"ColoradoScaping Certification will be a competitive advantage for companies to help clients plan now, save later; to be prepared not just with lower water bills, but with landscapes that survive and thrive through water restrictions," McMahon explained.

MORE About ColoradoScaping:

Comprehensive Professional Training for every sector of Colorado Landscaping

The ColoradoScaping Certification represents a significant commitment to professional development, featuring an intensive 35-hour program that combines 20 hours of online coursework with 15 hours of hands-on training and testing that translate to real proficiency in the field. This rigorous curriculum ensures certified professionals — including but not limited to grounds workers, irrigation professionals, arborists, landscape designers, and turf managers - have the skills and expertise to design and maintain true ColoradoScapes effectively with real Colorado-specific skills, not just theory.

The certification program focuses on four critical areas of Colorado landscape management: Plant Selection Excellence, Irrigation Considerations, Integrated Design Approach and Landscape Installation.

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About ALCC

The [Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado](#) (ALCC) has served Colorado's landscape industry since 1962, advocating, training, and supporting the success of landscape companies and professionals throughout the state. ALCC offers organization-based membership for landscape companies, suppliers, and municipality/affiliate organizations, as well as individual membership types for students and retired professionals.

About CSU Extension

For over 100 years, [Colorado State University Extension](#) has been a trusted partner connecting Coloradans to actionable, research-based solutions and programming on a wide range of topics. Local, county, and area-based Extension offices and specialists serve individuals and communities across the state by across the state through research expertise, localized trainings, resources and program offerings.

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