

GreenCO Unveils the Third Release of the BMP Manual
- July 2008

GreenCO is pleased to announce the release of the revised draft manual “Green Industry Best Management Practices for the Conservation and Protection of Water Resources in Colorado – Moving Towards Sustainability,” which was recently completed under a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). Practices described in the manual are consistent with CWCB’s goals of conserving, developing, protecting and managing Colorado’s water for the present and future. The purpose of this manual is to consolidate and improve upon Green Industry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the conservation and protection of water quality with an emerging ethic of working towards sustainable landscaping practices. These BMPs include a variety of design, installation, maintenance, grower and retail practices relevant to the Green Industry and the public that they serve. This document is a building block for the Green Industry to use in further developing common industry-wide standards. New and revised BMPs, appendices and other tools included are identified in Table 1.

The concept for the best management practices (BMP) manual was originally developed by the Green Industries of Colorado (GreenCO) in 2000 and was previously updated in 2004. The eight member industries of GreenCO that supported the third revision of this manual include the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC), Colorado Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals (CALCP), Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association (CNGA), Garden Centers of Colorado (GCC), International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Rocky Mountain Sod Growers Association (RMSGGA), and the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association (RMGCSA). In addition, the following agencies were invaluable partners in the development of this manual: Denver Water, Colorado State University (CSU) Extension, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the City of Westminster, the City of Aurora, the Irrigation Association, and the US Bureau of Reclamation. As was the case for previous releases of the manual, the 2008 update was developed through the dedication of time and expertise from the GreenCO BMP Advisory Committee and other industry professionals who provided advice and review of the manual. Over 500 volunteer hours have been provided to date in support of the effort. Wright Water Engineers, Inc. (WWE), served as the technical consultant for all three releases of the manual, and Brenda O’Brien served as the overall Project Manager for GreenCO.

It is with great pleasure that we introduce to you the Third Release of the GreenCO BMP Manual. GreenCO would like to extend an invitation to you to download the “draft final” manual and provide feedback. Comments can be sent directly to Jane Clary (WWE Project Manager) at clary@wrightwater.com or Brenda O’Brien at brenda.obrien@comcast.net and are due by August 15, 2008.

Thank you for continued support.

Brenda O’Brien, on behalf of the GreenCO Board of Directors

Table 1. List of BMPs and Supporting References in the 2008 BMP Manual

Status	Description	Status	Description
New	Sustainable Landscaping	2004	Mulching
2004	Xeriscape	2004	Drought and General Water Conservation Practices for Landscapes
2004	Water Budgeting	New	Snow Removal
Sig. Rev.	Landscape Design (including Plant Selection & Placement and Hardscapes)	2004	Production Practices for Nurseries, Greenhouses, and Sod Growers
2004	Landscape Installation/Erosion and Sediment Control	2004	Water Management Practices for Nurseries, Greenhouses, Sod Growers and Holding Yards
Sig. Rev.	Soil Amendment/Ground Preparation	2004	Retail Practices for Nurseries, Greenhouses and Garden Centers
New	Tree Protection	2004	Park, Golf Course and Other Large Landscape Design and Management
New	Tree Placement in Urban Landscapes	New	Landscape Features in Low Impact Development
New	Tree Planting	2004	Revegetation of Drainageways
Sig. Rev.	Irrigation Efficiency	2004	Riparian Buffer Preservation
Sig. Rev.	Irrigation System Design	2004	Employee Education
Sig. Rev.	Irrigation System Installation	2004	Public Education
Sig. Rev.	Irrigation System Maintenance	2004	Regulatory Awareness
New	Irrigation Efficiency Audits	Sig. Rev.	References
New	Irrigation Technology and Scheduling	New	Glossary
New	Irrigation Using Nonpotable Sources	2004	Appendix A Basic Erosion Sediment Control
2004	Landscape Maintenance	2004	Appendix B Basic Stormwater BMPs
Sig. Rev.	Tree and Other Woody Plant Care	2004	Appendix C Potentially Applicable Regulations
2004	Herbaceous Plant Care	2004	Appendix D Water Budget Calculator
2004	Turf Management	2004	Appendix E Plant Water Requirements (Kc/ET)
2004	Fertilizer Application	New	Appendix F Historical Grass Reference ET Tables
2004	Pesticide and Herbicide Application	New	Appendix G Irrigation Efficiency Audit--Pre-audit Checklist
2004	Pesticide, Fertilizer & Other Chemical Storage, Handling & Disposal	New	Appendix H Salt Tolerant Plants
2004	Lawn Aeration	New	Appendix I Continuing Education
2004	Lawn Waste Disposal/Composting	New	Appendix J Industry Checklists (<i>still in progress</i>)
2004	Mowing		

