

Living Solutions

Ecological Management Practices

introduction

At Gardeners' Guild our goal is to work with Nature. Over our 35 year history, we have developed and adopted practical strategies that create and sustain beautiful, living environments. The LivingSolutions program represents the evolution of our science based and field proven solutions for your landscape. It provides peace of mind that you, your children and pets will not be exposed to harmful chemicals, and that pollutants will not migrate into the local water supply from your landscape.

To transition a landscape to an ecologically based program typically requires a shift in use of materials while modifying or accelerating certain cultural practices. This also applies to the installation of new landscapes. The fundamental change is away from a labor and synthetic product based system and to a knowledge based solution.

process

The first step is a soil assessment from a physical, chemical, and biological perspective. In addition, general plant health and the condition of the existing irrigation system are verified. Combined, these assessments establish the "base line" condition from which we can formulate an overall strategy with site-specific goals and objectives, chart progress, and make needed adjustments.

Specific tactics may include applications of microbial diverse soil inoculant, aeration, foliar treatments and root application of mycorrhizae. These tactics require routine monitoring, and soil and plant tissue testing as needed to make adjustments to the program.

The outcome of LivingSolutions is to create a balance in the population of beneficial organisms and microorganisms while promoting the symbiotic relationships that can be formed between soil microorganisms and root systems.

a commitment to the environment

LivingSolutions is a long term commitment, not a quick fix. It is science based and requires careful implementation and skilled monitoring. To restore and enhance your property in concert with ecological principles will ensure a legacy of stewardship rooted in doing the "right thing" for "right reasons".

Gardeners' Guild, employee owners providing
LivingSolutions for landscape management.

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GARDENERS' GUILD
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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Program & Measurement

OVERVIEW

LivingSolutions is a suite of services. LivingSolutions is guided by our Ecological Management Practices, which are available for review at www.gardenersguild.com. The service is site-specific -- customized to the needs and requirements of your site. All of the activities listed below are considered in the program development for every site. Each of these activities has structured protocols that are deployed depending on existing conditions. The protocols are proprietary and are available for review by our customers.

SOIL ASSESSMENT

Soil chemistry

Physical Properties

Soil biology

Measurement Tool: Comparison soil assessment.

Trend analysis

SOIL BUILDING

Cultural practices

Application of OMRI rated product

Mechanical means

Measurement Tool: Comparison soil assessment.

Trend analysis

WEED MANAGEMENT

Census

Management Strategy

Measurement Tool: Census comparison.

Trend analysis

INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT

Data collection

Management Strategy

Measurement Tool: Population comparison.

Trend analysis

PLANT & SOIL BOURNE

DISEASES/ABIOTIC DISORDERS

Data collection/monitoring

Management Strategy

Measurement Tool: Tissue/sample comparison.

Trend analysis

PLANT HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Data collection/monitoring

Measurement Tool: Comparison assessment.

Trend analysis

IRRIGATION SYSTEM

System Hardware Diagnostic

System Management evaluation

Water Management program

Measurement Tool: Compare water use.

Trend analysis

Note: 1. Soil assessment and soil building by microbial inoculation, mineral and organic amendment strengthens plants' resistance to insect pests, biotic and abiotic disorders and stresses.

2. Proper irrigation conserves water while strengthening plants' resistance to diseases and insect pests; and minimizes weed growth.

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