



BCH Certification Criteria

Residential

Silver	Gold	Platinum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate Bush Honeysuckle from at least 50% of property and 100% of the Silver Level invasive plants • Use native plants to landscape at least 5% of available property • Include at least 2 of the 4 canopy levels and at least 15 native plant species • Complete 1 item from Wildlife Stewardship and 1 item from Stormwater Management Menu • Develop plan to reach Gold Certification (recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate Bush Honeysuckle from 75% of property and 100% of the Silver and Gold Level invasive plants • Use native plants to landscape at least 15% of available property • Include at least 3 of the 4 canopy levels and at least 25 native plant species • Accomplish 2 items from Wildlife Stewardship, 2 items from Stormwater Management section, and 1 item from the Education and Volunteerism section • Develop plan to reach Platinum Certification (recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate 100% of the invasive plants listed for all three levels • Use native plants to landscape at least 50% of available property • Include all 4 canopy levels and at least 50 native plant species • Accomplish 3 items from Wildlife Stewardship • 3 items from Stormwater Management • 2 items from the Education and Volunteerism section

Canopy Levels: wildflowers/grasses, shrubs, understory trees and canopy trees

(2 for Silver, 3 for Gold, 4 for Platinum)

Invasive Plants (Landscape must be clear of the following plants for each level)

Silver Level

Beefsteak Plant, Bush Honeysuckle (at least 50% of property cleared), English Ivy (from all vertical surfaces)
Garlic Mustard, Star-of-Bethlehem, Sweet Autumn Clematis, Wintercreeper (from all vertical surfaces)

Gold Level

Autumn Olive, Bush Honeysuckle (at least 75% of property cleared), Burning Bush/Winged Euonymus, English Ivy (all), Field Bindweed, Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Stiltgrass, Multiflora Rose, Nandina, Oriental Bittersweet, Tree of Heaven

Platinum Level

Amur Maple, Bradford/Callery Pear, Bush Honeysuckle (all cleared), Golden Bamboo, Japanese Honeysuckle, Johnson Grass, Mimosa, Privets (all species), Siberian or Lacebark Elm, Wintercreeper (100% cleared)

Wildlife Stewardship

- At least one avian nest or roost box monitored to keep out non-native birds (European starlings, English house sparrows, and pigeons)
- At least one wildlife water feature (regularly cleaned bird bath, bubbler, pond, natural waterway)
- At least 2 native bee stewardship practices (leave 10+ inches of stems, leaf mulch, bare ground, snag/log)
- At least one properly installed bat house
- Indoor cats only (outdoor enclosure acceptable, e.g. catio)
- Audubon approved bird strike prevention installation
- No broad insecticide spraying for mosquitoes
- Complete Dark Sky home lighting assessment (bit.ly/DarkSkyAssessment)

Stormwater Management

- No use of inorganic fertilizers or pesticides (except herbicides to eradicate non-native invasive plants)
- Non-native grass lawn and impervious surfaces (cement, asphalt, etc.) less than 10% of property minus area of house
- Rainwater harvesting system such as a rain barrel/cistern
- At least one native tree or shrub for every 1000 square feet of plantable space
- Rain garden or vegetated bioswale
- Vegetative buffer strip or green roof to absorb and filter runoff
- Maintain proper pet waste disposal to prevent stormwater contamination

Education and Volunteerism

- Participate in wildlife-oriented community science program such as Bumblebee Atlas or Stream Team
- Host or organize a Bring Conservation Home supported education event.
- Property accepted into at least one native plant/wildlife garden tour such as the Native Plant Garden Tour or Sustainable Backyard Tour.
- Taken more than one naturescaping class (STLCC-Meramec Go Native, Native Plant School)
- Volunteer regularly with St. Louis Audubon or nature conservation group such as Wild Ones or Shaw Nature Reserve.
- Participate in MO/IL or St. Louis Community College Master Naturalist Program