

Adopted by:



**ALCA**

Contract with Landscape Experts



Sustainable Landscape Management

# SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

By Janet L. Waibel Landscape Architect & Certified Arborist

## Standards for Care in the Desert Southwest



**ALCA**  
Contract with Landscape Experts

# **Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association**

Represents Nearly 400 Companies

Approximately 30,000 employees

\$700 Million in Arizona Revenue

Representation and Advocacy

Promotes Professionalism

Provides Education, & Certification

Networking

Excellence In Landscaping





## What is SLM?

- Collaboration between Architect Janet Waibel & Landscape Contractors
- Editorial review by landscape contractors & industry experts
- Standards provide the best recommended practices
- Provides a standard by which qualified maintenance is measured
- Curriculum developed for certification purposes

# Who endorses SLM?

- Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association
- Building Owners & Managers Association of Greater Phoenix
- Arizona Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
- Arizona Association of Community Managers
- Arizona Nursery Association
- City of Phoenix



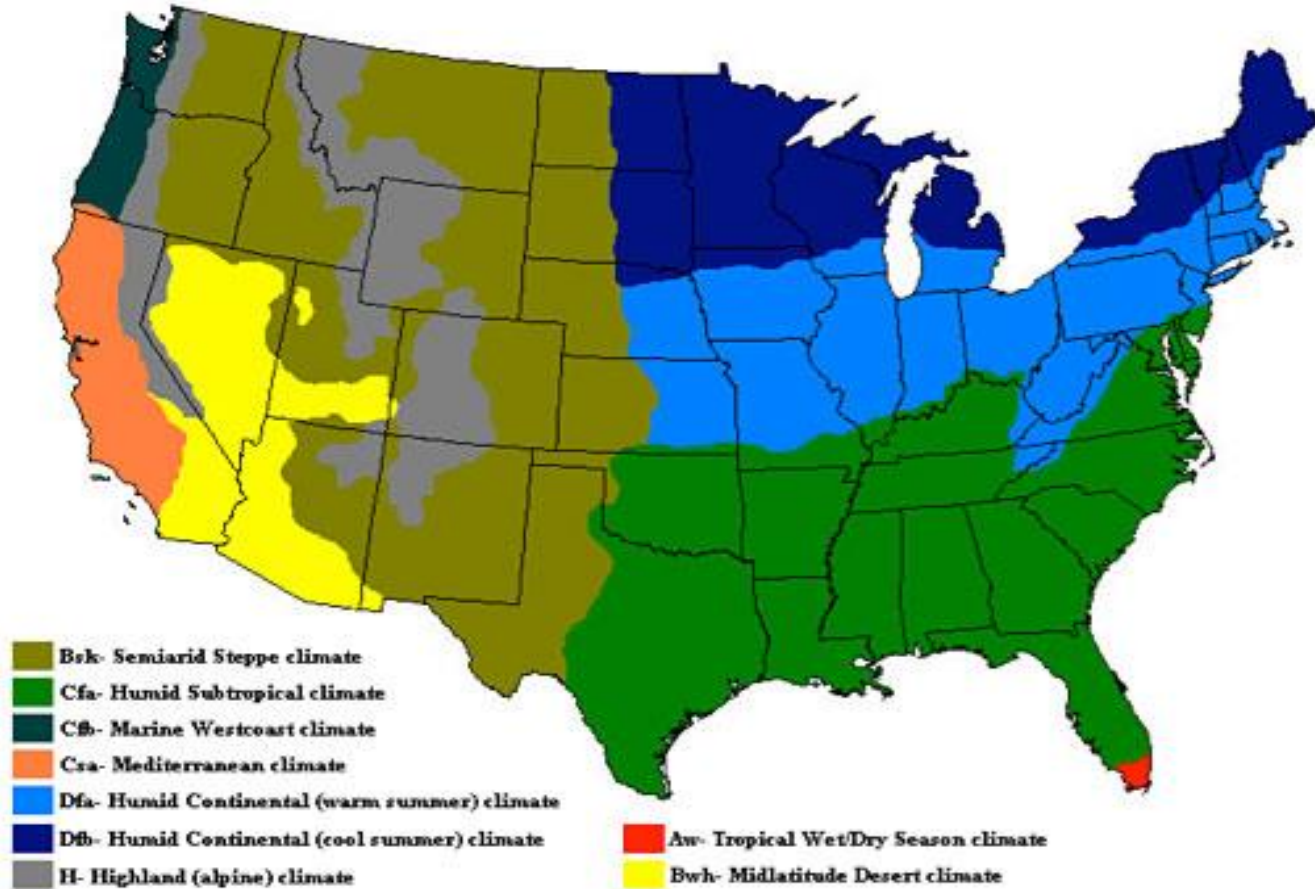
# ALCA

is establishing partnerships with:

- City of Phoenix
- City of Glendale
- City of Tempe
- City of Scottsdale
- City of Mesa
- SRP
- AAM, LLC
- Brown Community Management
- Rossmar & Graham
- Arizona Community Management Services
- Associated Property Management
- AZ Municipal Water Users Association
- Smartscape (AMWUA)

# Where is SLM?

## Climate Zones of the Continental United States



# So, how did we get here?



- 30 Years demand for quick labor.
- Customer's Demand for Visual Confirmation of Work
- Population unfamiliar with the Desert Landscape
- Landscape Appearance Continues to Decline



# Why are sustainable practices important?

Improve the quality and appearance of our surroundings.

Preserve limited and valuable natural resources such as water and plant materials.

Reduce generation of waste.

Reduce and prevent air, water, and soil pollution.

Promote healthier, longer living, mature plant materials.





# Who benefits from the application of SLM practices?

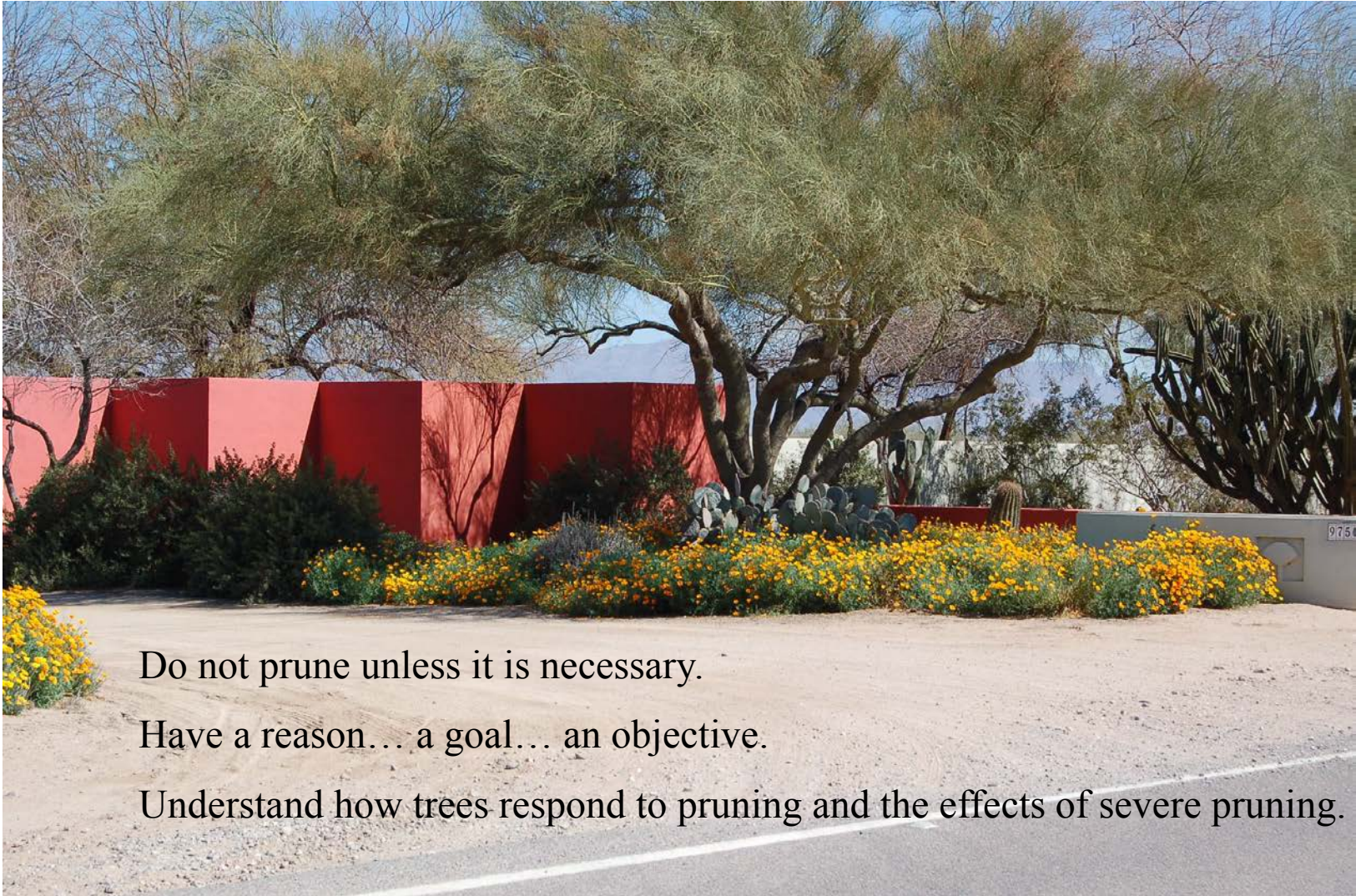
- Residents
- Community Manager
- Property Owner
- Businesses
- Landscape Contractor
- The Community



# Topics Covered

- Planting Composition Explained
- Planting New Trees
- Tree Staking
- Pruning Trees
- Palms
- Shrubs and Groundcovers
- Renovation Style Pruning
- Cactus and Succulents
- Ornamental Grass
- Decomposed Granite
- Turf Management
- General Irrigation
- Turf Irrigation
- Site Drainage
- Urban Soils and Urban Plants
- Fertilizer and Soil Conditioners
- Pesticide and Herbicide Application

# Pruning Trees



Do not prune unless it is necessary.

Have a reason... a goal... an objective.

Understand how trees respond to pruning and the effects of severe pruning.

# Tree Pruning



# Pruning Trees



Protected



Open to Sun Burn

# Improper Tree Pruning



# Right Tree, Right Place ?



# Right Tree, Right Place





# Shrubs and Groundcover

## Why is proper care important?



Proper care for shrubs & groundcover allows these plants to fulfill their design intent.

The investment made in design, installation, and care of the plants increases.

Encourage the natural growth and flowering.

## Why is this different from past practices?

Knowledge of blooming periods is necessary. Prune after flowering period.

Do not create cubes, beer cans, balls or any other geometrical shapes.

Allow shrubs and groundcovers to fill spaces.



# What is the anticipated outcome of doing it the correct way?



Past practices removes flowering blooms.

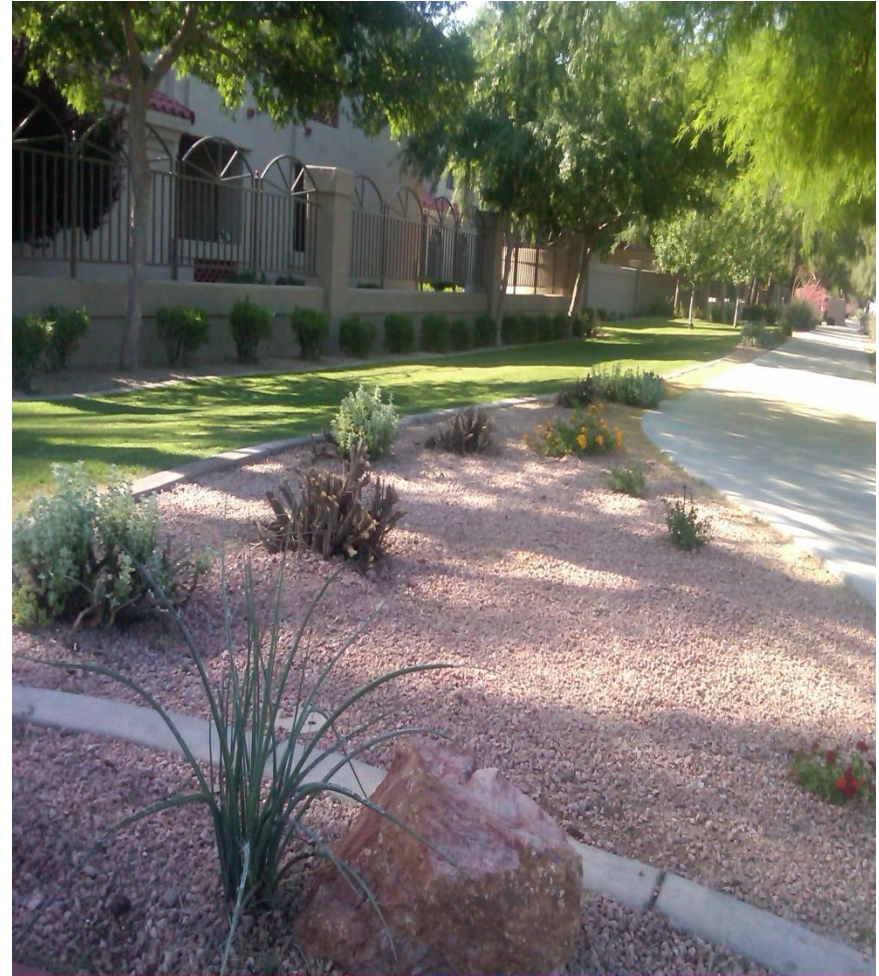


Proper pruning promotes beautiful color.

# Renovation Style Pruning

## Why is this important?

- Excessive pruned shrubs are in a continuous state of stress which requires more water to recover.
- Enhances seasonal color.
- De-emphasizes a strict monthly or bi-monthly trim schedule.
- Reduces air and noise pollution from gas powered hedge trimmers and blowers; reduces fuel consumption of these pieces of equipment.
- Increases overall focus on what is best for the long term health of plants.

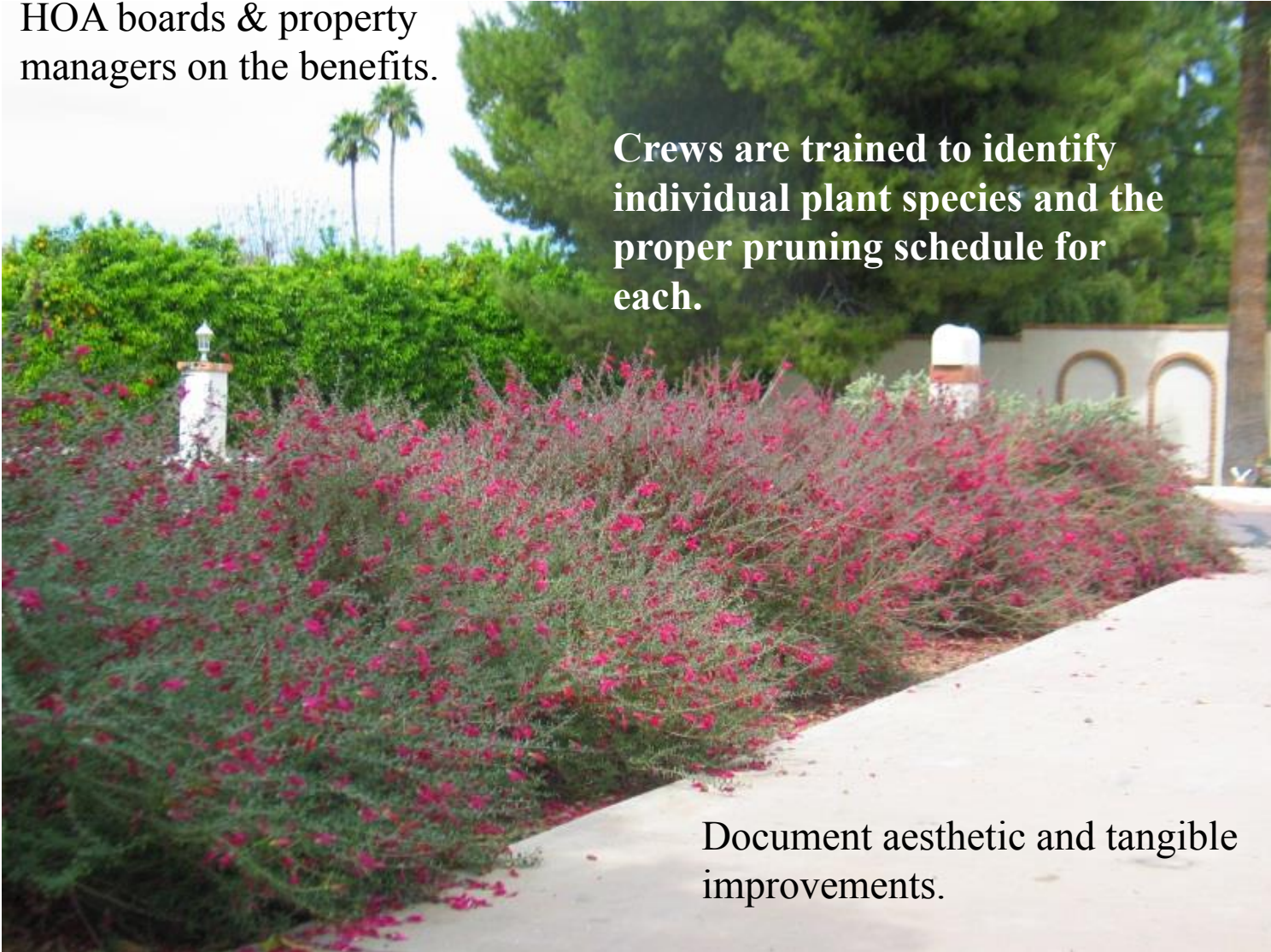


# Renovation Style Pruning



## What work is necessary to better support the renovation style pruning goals?

Educate property owners,  
HOA boards & property  
managers on the benefits.



Crews are trained to identify  
individual plant species and the  
proper pruning schedule for  
each.

Document aesthetic and tangible  
improvements.

# Turf Management



Better quality turf.

Less water usage.

Reduced fertilizer usage.

Reduced weeds, pests and disease.

# What is Sustainable Irrigation in the Desert Southwest?

Simply making the best use of the water we have available.





# What is “Sustainable” Irrigation?

This is not an example of sustainable irrigation!



# Sprinkler Maintenance



Eliminate watering concrete. It won't grow no matter how much it's watered!



Sprinklers should be installed level and at grade.

# Why should you embrace SLM?

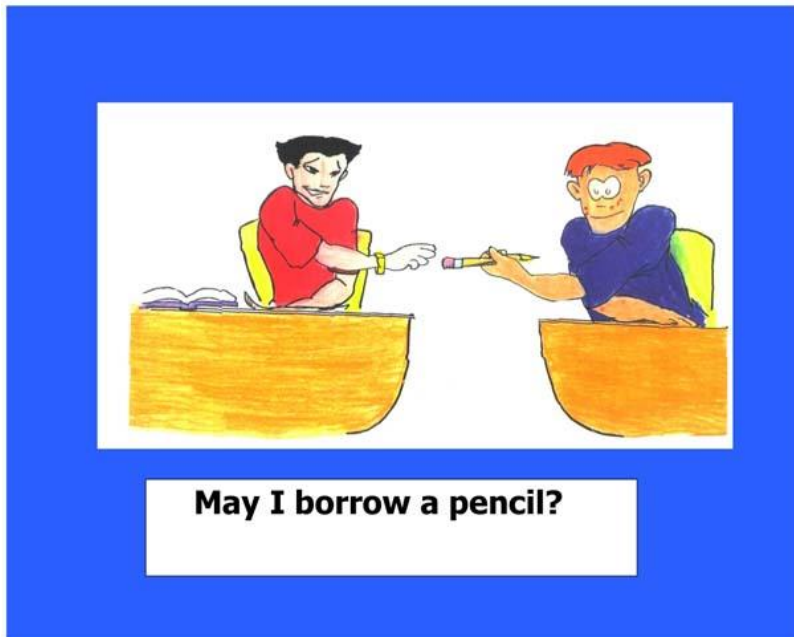


- Conservation of water resources.
- Reduce generation of waste.
- Healthier, more resilient and mature plant materials.
- Longer and more abundant blooming periods.
- Create a natural landscape environment.

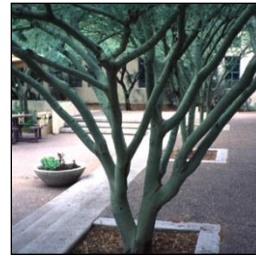


# How can you become certified in SLM?

- Call the ALCA office to register for the workshop – you must be an ALCA member.
- Four hour class followed by an exam.
- Certified SLM professionals will be listed on ALCA website.
- Property managers, homeowner associations and any prospective client may check the ALCA website to hire SLM Certified professionals.



# Sustainable Landscape Management



- Use the official guide for proper landscape maintenance.
- Spread the word to associations, property managers, friends and neighbors.
- Landscape Specifications based on SLM.
- Hire only **ALCA** certified contractors.



**ALCA**  
Contract with Landscape Experts



*Thank You*