



ColoradoScapingTM Certification



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is ColoradoScaping?

ColoradoScaping is an advanced certification program developed through a collaboration between the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC) and Colorado State University Extension. It focuses on sustainable, water-efficient landscaping practices tailored to Colorado's unique climate and environmental conditions.

2. Why was ColoradoScaping created?

Colorado's landscapes face drought, high water costs, and plant loss challenges. ColoradoScaping was created to train professionals to design and install landscapes that:

- **Conserve water** using efficient irrigation and appropriate plant choices.
- **Reduce long-term costs** from water bills and plant replacements.
- **Promote environmental stewardship** through sustainable practices.
- **Support thriving landscapes** with native and drought-tolerant plants.

3. Who is the certification for?

ColoradoScaping is designed for:

- **Landscape professionals** with 1–2 years of experience.
- **Municipalities and water providers** looking to achieve conservation goals.
- **Landscape companies, HOAs, and homeowners** interested in sustainable landscape outcomes.

4. What are the benefits of becoming ColoradoScaping certified?

Certified professionals and organizations can:

- **Stand out** in the Colorado landscaping industry with a recognized credential.
- **Elevate professional status** and credibility within the community.
- Demonstrate **hands-on proficiency** and real Colorado-specific landscape skills.
- Support **water conservation and sustainable landscape outcomes** that benefit clients and communities.

5. What does the ColoradoScaping program include?

ColoradoScaping consists of **35 hours of training** broken into two parts:

1. **20 hours of online self-paced learning** — includes text, videos, and knowledge checks.
2. **15 hours of in-person, hands-on training** — provides practical skills and demonstrations. Initial offering to be held in summer 2026, subsequent dates TBD. Location TBD as of January 2026.

Both components are required to earn certification.

6. Do I need to register separately for online and hands-on training?

Yes.

- **Online learning registration** opens via the CSU Extension platform.
- **Hands-on training registration** opens through the ALCC website (initial sessions are planned for summer 2026).

7. What does the program cost?

- The online training registration fee is \$250. This is payable at the time of registration on the CSU Extension web site.
- The hands-on, in-person training registration is \$625 for ALCC members and \$900 for non-ALCC members. This is payable at the time of registration on the alcc.com web site. Registration for the in-person training will be available in spring or summer 2026.

8. Can anyone take the online course?

Yes. While the full certification requires completing both training parts, the 20-hour online course is open to everyone interested in gaining knowledge about sustainable landscaping in Colorado.

8. Is ColoradoScaping offered in languages other than English?

Initially, the program will be offered in English. A **Spanish version** is planned for rollout in **2027**.

8. Once the ColoradoScaping certification is obtained, will I be required to recertify?

Yes, the certificate is good for 4 years. After the 4-year period, individuals will be required to take an exam to recertify. More information will be available over the next year.

9. How does ColoradoScaping compare to other ALCC programs?

ColoradoScaping is an **advanced, in-depth certification** focused on design, planting, irrigation, and practical skills for Colorado's climate. By contrast, **SLM Colorado** is an **entry-level program** focused on maintenance fundamentals and crew best practices. Together, they form a pathway for professional development in sustainable landscaping.

10. How do I get more information or register?

- **General inquiries:** Email info@alcc.com
- **Updates & early registration:** Sign up through the ALCC/ColoradoScaping updates page.