

Quick Reference Guide to Landscape Certifications

General Landscape Certifications



Landscape Industry Certified (LIC)

Designated by internationally recognized organization, the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP). Many LIC certifications are offered; common ones include LICT (Landscape Industry Certified Technician) and LICM (Landscape Industry Certified Manager).

Water-Saving Landscape Certifications



Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL)

Requires knowledge about water-efficient and sustainable landscape practices, including water management and the preservation of other valuable resources. 20 hours of classroom learning covers irrigation systems, landscape design and water budgeting.



CLCA Certified Water Manager

The California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) is one of the oldest and largest organizations of licensed landscape contractors. Certified WM's save water, improve your landscape and save you money. Requires written test and completed irrigation audit, as well as proficiency on landscape sites for 1 year.



Watershed Wise Landscape Professional (WWLP)

Ability to analyze irrigation systems and rainwater to create an irrigation system incorporating the reuse of rainwater. Training includes 2 days of coursework, written exam, and a landscape site evaluation.



Recycled Water Site Supervisor (RWSS)

Understands the appropriate techniques for the safe and efficient use of recycled water and can identify any possible issues with cross-connections. Certification is granted after a half day training.

Landscape Design Certifications



Assoc. of Professional Landscape Designers Certification (APLD Certified)

Professional recognition for landscape designers based on experience and portfolio of work. Certification is granted after a review of the landscaper's body of work. Certified landscape designers are required to get additional education and re-certified every 3 years.

Miscellaneous Certifications



Qualified Applicator License (QAL)

Licensed to apply pesticides without risk of harm to plants, animals or people. Has knowledge of pesticide labeling, safety, and the laws/regulations surrounding use. Must pass an extensive exam and accumulate continuing education hours. Renew license every two years.



ISA Certified Arborist

Certified arborists are knowledgeable in areas such as tree biology, tree maintenance practices, diagnosis and safety. ISA Certified Arborists follow a Code of Ethics and have a minimum of 3 years of full-time experience in arboriculture. To gain certification, arborists need to submit an application and pass an exam.