

UNR Cooperative Extension offers water-efficient landscape training and certification

by Jordan Hicks

Tuesday, March 12th 2019

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Participants will learn how to conduct a water audit on an existing landscape during the QWEL training. Photo by Leilani Konyshov, Cooperative Extension..jpg



RENO, Nev. (News 4 & Fox 11) — The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is inviting local professionals to attend the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) training from March 12 to 19, in Reno.

The training will prepare participants for the certification exam on March 19 to become certified professionals.

“This training provides the opportunity for green industry professionals to step up their education, making them more competitive in the industry and training them to help Nevadans become more water efficient,” Cooperative Extension Northern Area Horticulture Specialist Heidi Kratsch said.

The training is part of Extension's Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Certification (QWEL) Program.

Professionals certified by the program, which was designed by the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership and is recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency, will be listed on the [EPA's WaterSense website](#), and on the [QWEL.net](#) website, where local landowners can find them for hire.

Classes are taught by Cooperative Extension and **Truckee Meadows Water Authority** faculty, staff and industry professionals. Participants will be provided with local water, soil and plant information; basic and advanced irrigation principles; and hands-on water audit skills they can use in the field.

Anyone can take the training for personal knowledge, and professionals are encouraged to take the exam to become certified. Workshops will be held:

- March 12 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., lunch will be provided
- March 13 from 9 a.m. until 4:15 p.m., lunch will be provided
- March 15 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:15 p.m., lunch will be provided
- March 18 from 1 p.m. until 4:15 p.m.
- March 19 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.: certification exam

Both the training and the certification exam are at the Washoe County Cooperative Extension office, 4955 Energy Way in Reno.

For more information on classes or certification, contact Cooperative Extension Commercial Landscape Horticulture Program Coordinator Jenn Fisher at fisherj@unce.unr.edu or 775-336-0249.