



# ALCA

ARIZONA LANDSCAPE  
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

## **What is Sustainable Landscape Management®?**

SLM® is ALCA's certified curriculum to educate landscape professionals and elevate the standard of landscaping practice to sustainability. SLM® is a certification program comprehensive of best practices for design, construction/enhancements, and maintenance.

### **SLM® Design Goals**

- Select the right plant for the right place; design for mature plant size
- Design for irrigation efficiency
  - Retain landscape water and rainfall, reduce water run-off
- Preserve wildlife habitat and existing site materials
- Create focal points, screen unsightly views, and direct traffic

### **SLM® Construction/Enhancements Goals**

- Use site assessment to identify function and aesthetic of design
- Minimally impact site; reduce compaction and preserve vegetation
- Safety first! Minimize air, water, and noise pollution
- Follow SLM® best practices for selecting and planting trees/shrubs
- Upgrade and monitor irrigation to ensure proper water delivery

### **SLM® Maintenance Goals**

- Develop management plan to conserve resources and reduce waste
- Maintain long term plant health; utilize proper pruning practices
- Follow SLM® irrigation guidelines to maximize efficiency
- Minimize usage of fertilizers and pesticides; utilize IPM and organics

**SLM® practices create beautiful,  
ecological, and economical landscapes!**



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## Why Get SLM® Certified?

SLM® Certification adds value to the landscape contractor by distinguishing them as an educated and skillful landscape professional with high standards of sustainability and beauty.

**Get Sustainable Landscape Management® Certified!**  
Register for SLM® at [www.ALCA.org](http://www.ALCA.org)

## Use your SLM® Certification

- Talk to your clients about what to expect with SLM®
  - Healthy and vigorous plants
  - Efficient irrigation systems and water management
  - Healthy plants growing in their fullest expression
  - Conservation of natural resources – water, soil, and fuel
  - Aesthetic landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- Leverage your SLM® Certification when bidding for jobs
- Stand out from the competition when elevating your career as a landscape professional
- Partner with ALCA to educate HOA Boards, Community Managers, commercial developers, and architects/designers
- Use SLM® Plant Pruning Schedule Book and other SLM® resources as a reference when talking to colleagues and clients



# SLM®

SUSTAINABLE  
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

**SLM® Plant Pruning Schedule Book: The First 100**  
A reference guide to 100 native and desert adapted landscape plants – bloom time, prune time, pruning method, detailed images, and helpful tips for long-term care. Purchase at [www.ALCA.org](http://www.ALCA.org)



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## Why Sustainable Landscape Management?

ALCA's certified SLM® practices preserve vegetation, improve soil conditions, conserve water, and reduce fuel consumption. SLM® supports plants in their natural growth habits by teaching proper cultural and pruning practices based on a plants bloom time and seasonality. The SLM® Certification adds value to the landscape contractor by distinguishing them as an educated and skillful steward with elevated standards of sustainability and beauty.

## Reasons for Pruning

- Encourage natural growth, flowering, and dormancy of trees, shrubs, and ground covers
- Rejuvenate plants that have outgrown a space
- Safety – plants that encroach sidewalks or obstruct lines of sight
- Improve the health and structural integrity of trees and shrubs

## SLM® Pruning Best Practices

- Only prune what is necessary – dead, diseased, or damaged
- Structural pruning young trees can prevent defects
- Know your plant species, their bloom time, and dormancy period
- Prune after bloom or leaf flush

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SUSTAINABLE  
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## SLM® Pruning

### Proper Pruning Practices



Dwarf Myrtle



Bougainvillea



Sage



### Improper Pruning Practices

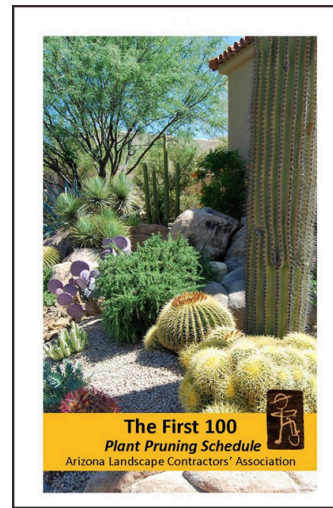


## SLM® Rejuvenation Pruning

- Rejuvenate overgrown shrubs by cutting 12-18" above the ground
- In a few months, plants will grow a full new canopy
- Stagger rejuvenation pruning by species or location to prevent having a bare landscape
- Ensure sufficient water is being delivered to shrubs after pruning
- Perform irrigation checks on newly exposed emitters



Rejuvenation Pruning of Sage



The First 100  
Plant Pruning Schedule  
Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association



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