

SUCCESS STORY!

GARDEN OF WEEDIN'

"My office is some of the most beautiful gardens in Seattle," answers Nancy Morrison, when asked why she walked away from a career in research pharmacology to start up a landscape maintenance company. "I never get bored. Every day is different."

Morrison's 10-year-old business, the Garden of Weedin', provides garden bed maintenance services that include weeding, pruning and plant installation. "I begin where the mowers leave off," explains Morrison. The Garden of Weedin' is a 5-star EnviroStar.

What sets the Garden of Weedin' apart from other landscape firms? "Our company uses no pesticides," says Morrison. "My staff and I must find non-chemical solutions to garden problems. For example, instead of applying a chemical pesticide to weeds growing between stepping stones, we use a flame weeder." In addition, the company works to build long-term health into their landscapes; staff routinely build soils, prune for plant vigor, and select plants appropriate to the site.

The company also strives for long-term health in client relations. Morrison stays in close touch: "I have coffee with my clients and listen to their concerns." She typically discusses each job as she walks through the property with the client; that way, she says, there are no surprises. Finally, "I hire smart people." Effective garden maintenance means that staff must "keep their brains in gear;" it involves observing, thinking through a prob-



Nancy Morrison in Fremont

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Nancy Morrison, Owner

lem and continuously learning—the opposite of automatic, calendar-based pesticide use.

Morrison, who has a PhD in Pharmacology, understands the impact of chemicals on human health and the environment. Her decision to use no pesticides keeps these hazardous chemicals out of the environment and protects the health of her employees and herself. And she finds that pesticides aren't necessary for maintaining attractive and healthy landscapes.

Morrison has joined with other sustainable gardeners to form a new organization, the Coalition of Organic Landscapers (COOL). The Web site is www.organiclandscapers.org.

Garden of Weedin' is located in Shoreline and maintains pesticide-free

gardens in the Seattle/North King County area. Her staff ranges from 2-3 people in winter, to 6 in the summer.

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Garden of Weedin'

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