

IN HARMONY

In Harmony Organic Based Landscape Services has a clear vision: “Our number one focus is on plant health,” says Ladd Smith, co-owner. “We look at every landscape in terms of long-term well-being.”

In Harmony, a 5-Star EnviroStar, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2004. The landscape design, installation and maintenance company is co-owned by Ladd Smith and Mark Gile.

In Harmony concentrates on creating yards and gardens that naturally resist pests and promote plant growth. For example, the company brews and applies compost tea, a microbial-rich liquid that adds beneficial organisms to the soil, building long-term soil and plant health.

Another innovative approach is the use of corn gluten, a corn-based fertilizer that has a happy side effect—reducing weed germination. In Harmony also applies compost and organic mulches to enrich the soil, reduce weeds and conserve water.

Proactive Pest Management

If pests appear in the landscape, In Harmony doesn't rush to a quick fix. “By being proactive, most infestations can be solved by cultural practices,” says Smith. “Removing the infestation, placing physical barriers and adjusting watering/maintenance practices are the beginning steps toward eliminating pests.”

If pesticides are needed, In Harmony has a stock of “soft” products—those that carefully target a specific problem and cause minimal environmental

SUCCESS STORY!



Ladd Smith (left) and Mark Gile

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Ladd Smith, Co-owner

damage. For example, neem oil sprays smother the eggs of certain insects without damaging plants or the environment, and the use of beneficial nematodes can control root weevils. Some pesticides are spot-applied or injected directly into the plant: the idea is to treat the particular problem without broadcasting the pesticide.

Educating Customers

In Harmony Organic Based Landscape Services teaches its customers to “be tolerant of minor populations of weeds, insects and diseases” and publishes fact sheets on subjects ranging from moss to mycorrhize. The popularity of a more sustainable approach to landscaping is reflected in the company's consistent growth. Its current facility includes a design studio, storage areas and room for expansion into a retail nursery.

In Harmony

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EnviroStars

EnviroStars is a regional program that certifies businesses for their efforts to properly manage and reduce hazardous waste. In King County the program is a service of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program.

For more information about EnviroStars or managing hazardous waste, see www.envirostars.org or www.govlink.org/hazwaste/.

Support Environmentally Responsible Businesses

By supporting an EnviroStars-certified business, you become part of a feedback system that reinforces choices that protect the environment. You know that the company you patronize is a good environmental steward. Your patronage is the best reward.

The Green Business Directory lists businesses that have made a commitment to be environmentally responsible and includes all EnviroStars-certified businesses. Call 1-877-220-STAR(7827) for a copy.

This Success Story is available in alternate formats by calling (206) 263-3050. TTY is at 711.

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