

# Birthingway College of Midwifery

## Land Management Values

Birthingway is committed to the following values in all aspects of campus land management, landscaping, gardening, and design: All work will be done through a permaculture and organic-method approach. This further lends a hand toward sustainability. All labor, inputs, and maintenance must be ecologically sound, safe to all life, and create a productive and healthy landscape that is aligned with natural ecosystem processes as closely as possible.

### **Responsible Plant Selection**

- ✓ The selection of plants will provide a primary focus on Pacific Northwest native plant species. Native plants are well adapted to the soil, climate, and wildlife of the Pacific Northwest, and can be easily maintained with minimal care.
- ✓ A secondary focus will allow for some non-native species in order to provide a specific purpose (fruits, medicinals, flowers, etc).
- ✓ The selection of plants will refrain from the use of invasive species and will actively work to remove all exotic invasive species on the grounds. Exception may be given to certain useful species provided they are effectively contained (ex: all *Mentha sp.* (mints), *Melissa officinalis* (lemon balm), *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John's Wort)).

### **Healthy Soil Maintenance**

Soil amending and feeding of plants/trees will only be done with the following:

- ✓ Compost (generated through a pile or bin system).
- ✓ Sheet mulching or composting in place with leaves, ramial wood chips, straw, etc.
- ✓ Use of fertilizers will be kept to a minimum and must comply with Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI) standards.

### **Minimal Lawn Needs**

- ✓ Mowing will be done with a reel mower (hand-pushed) to reduce the use of fossil fuels and the noise pollution associated with gas and electric mowers. This will also allow the grass clippings to return to the lawn as mulch.
- ✓ Incorporate clover and other “stepable” species into the lawn to create a more self-sustaining polyculture.

### **Creative Pest Control**

- ✓ The first line of defense chosen to mitigate the impact of unwanted insect and animal species will be through integrated pest management.
- ✓ As a last resort, any pesticides used must comply with OMRI standards.

### **Creative Weed Control**

- ✓ Any control of undesired plants will be done through hand-weeding, mulching, and use of allelopathic plants.
- ✓ Herbicides will not be used.
- ✓ The goal is weed suppression rather than eradication.

**Maintain Diverse Habitat**

- ✓ All work will show consideration for the impact on urban wildlife habitat.
- ✓ While brush piles, rotting logs, and clumps of leaves may not provide an ideal aesthetic view, they do provide important shelter for wildlife and will be integrated into any landscape design.