



Fire and Water Wise Landscaping in the Kootenay's Workshop July 15-16

Water has long been a problem in the drought-prone Columbia Valley. Despite large amounts of rain this year, it is anticipated that the months of July and August will see parched gardens and water restrictions. Simple water conservation techniques are useful for optimising water use while maintaining and enhancing gardens.

The College of the Rockies and the Columbia Valley Botanical Garden, with funding support from the Columbia Basin Trust, are holding a workshop on fire and water-wise landscaping at College of the Rockies Invermere Campus July 15-16. The workshop will comprise of an evening lecture and a field tour the following morning.

The evening lecture will take place July 15th from 6pm to 9pm in the DTSS Lecture Theatre and will feature a presentation titled *Fire and Water Wise Landscaping in the Kootenay's* by Michael Keefer, an expert on native plants and landscaping. Learn about native plant species, water conservation techniques and see examples of best and worst case scenarios. These waterwise landscaping techniques will also help protect your home in the event of wildfires.

The second day is planned as a field day from 9am – 12pm. Site visits will focus on plant diversity and identification, water conservation, fire hazards and opportunities for incorporating the techniques discussed in the evening lecture. Participants are encouraged to bring the text *Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia* by Robert Parish, available at Dave's Book Bar, as it will be incorporated into the field day. Aqam Native Plant Nursery will also be on-site selling native plants at the workshop.

The evening lecture costs \$10 and the two-day workshop is \$25. Please register at the College of the Rockies in person or by calling 342-3210.

