

FAQs about the Master Pruner Program

- **What is the Master Pruner Certificate?**
 - A series of twelve 2-hour classes and three full-day, hands-on workshops that provides students with a solid base in the science and practice of selective pruning. **The curriculum is developed and owned by PlantAmnesty (PA)** and taught by trained instructors that are professionals in the field and bring years of personal experience to their classes.
 - The certificate is awarded when a student has taken all the following classes and workshops:
 - **12 pruning classes**, made up of:
 - **9 core classes:**
 - Tree Pruning I and II
Tree Pruning I should be taken before Tree Pruning II or Fruit Trees.
 - Shrubs I, II, and III
 - Fruit Trees
 - Art or Atrocity
 - How to Prune and Renovate the Overgrown Garden
 - Corrective Pruning (formerly Rehabilitative Pruning)
 - **3 additional specialty classes.** Options include:
 - Japanese Pruning
 - Vine Pruning
 - Conifers
 - Roses
 - **3 full-day, hands-on workshops**
 - 2 renovation workshops
 - Two of the three completed workshops *must* be renovation workshops
 - 1 additional workshop, either a specialty workshop or another Renovation workshop
- **Where can I take classes?**
 - There are two ways to access classes required to finish Master Pruner Certificate. Taking classes through either route, **or a combination of both**, all counts toward completing the requirements.
 1. PA-hosted Master Pruner classes are typically held in the morning on **weekends**, roughly one class per month, and are typically **in-person** held at venues across Seattle and the east side.
 - These classes are well-suited for homeowners, avid gardeners, and horticulture professionals with a busy weekday schedule.
Continuing education credits are not yet offered through this route.
 2. UWBG ProHort classes are hosted by the UW Botanic Garden's Adult Education Program and presented twice a year in a winter (Feb-Apr) and

summer (Jul-Sep) series. ProHort teaches the Master Pruner series in an **online** live webinar format at an accelerated pace that can be completed in six weeks. The online classes are taught by PlantAmnesty instructors but are held during the day on **Thursdays**, with two classes per day.

- These classes are suited well for professionals and those looking to incorporate pruning into their career. **Automatic professional continuing education credits are applied through this route.**
- The ProHort program also offers several other technical classes useful for horticultural professionals and we encourage you to check them out!

- **What do the PA Master Pruner classes cost?**

- \$35 for PlantAmnesty members
- \$75 for non-members

- **What do the UWBG ProHort classes cost?**

- \$35 for PlantAmnesty members
- \$75 for non-members

- **What do workshops cost?**

- Renovation Workshops
 - \$100 for PlantAmnesty members
 - \$180 for non-members
- Specialty Workshops
 - \$125 for PlantAmnesty members
 - \$205 for non-members

- **What is the best way to learn about upcoming classes and workshops?**

- Sign up for our email updates [here](#)! In our emails, we will share the workshop registration page and announce the time of open registration 24-48 hours before registration opens. PA members then have roughly 48 hours to register before registration opens for nonmembers. Many workshops fill up quickly, and we have signups for waiting lists.

- **How long does it take to complete the certification?**

- PlantAmnesty teaches one full class series each year and the UWBG ProHort series is offered twice a year. It's possible to complete the classes and workshops required within one year, but feel free to take them at whatever pace you choose, through either entity. Most students average 2 years to complete.
- There is currently no time limit for completing the certification. Workshop availability depends on PlantAmnesty's finding good teaching properties and can fill up quickly with high demand. For these reasons, it may take more than one year to complete the workshop requirements for the certification. We currently have no viable options to offer a class-only certification without meeting the workshop requirements.

- PlantAmnesty aims to offer at least three Renovation Workshops in the spring/early summer and at least one Renovation Workshop in the fall. Some years, we will be able to offer more Renovation Workshops. For specialty workshops, we aim to offer Fruit Tree Workshops in the winter and summer and at least one workshop focused on Japanese pine pruning or Japanese maple pruning. Additional small specialty workshops will be offered as sites and instructors are available.
- **I can't remember if I attended a certain class. How can I find out?**
 - Email educationprograms@plantamnesty.org
- **I have a degree from a horticulture program (Edmonds, South Seattle, LWT), does that count?**
 - One quarter-long pruning class from a college program can substitute the requirement for one of the three required workshops
- **Are classes online or in person?**
 - Both! PlantAmnesty offers mostly in-person classes while the UWBG ProHort series is currently all online. Taking any class through either host counts towards your certificate requirements.
- **Will I be able to watch a recording of the online classes?**
 - Yes, recordings of online classes will be available to registrants for 2 weeks after the class date.

FAQs about PlantAmnesty

- **What is PlantAmnesty?**
 - PA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide education, resources, and advocacy to prevent malpruning and preserve urban greenspaces.
 - We do this through alerting the public and providing solutions through classes, workshops, literature, videos, Spanish-language resources, speaking engagements, [Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning](#), the Referral Service, and volunteer events.
- **When was PlantAmnesty founded?**
 - 1987
- **How many members does PlantAmnesty have?**
 - 700 as of 2025
- **Who was Cass Turnbull?**
 - Cass Turnbull was a Seattle Parks employee before founding PlantAmnesty when she became fed up with trees and shrubs being "sheared within an inch of their lives." She was a passionate and dedicated teacher and spread PA's message all over the country and even Canada, giving talks, writing articles, and engaging in humorous civil disobedience to raise awareness of the dangers of malpruning. Her campaign to stop topping trees influenced the city of Seattle and many tree companies to give up topping as a practice.

- Cass passed away in 2017, but her organization continues to thrive.
- **Who is the current Executive Director?**
 - Kristin Jackson is available for talks, hands-on training, outreach events, and is actively involved in promoting and growing PlantAmnesty. You can reach her at kristin@plantamnesty.org.
- **How can I help?**
 - Become a member or renew your membership
 - Volunteer at events, classes, even join a committee or the board! Reach out our Community Engagement Coordinator, Liv Thomas, at communityprograms@plantamnesty.org for volunteer opportunities.
 - Spread the word and let friends and neighbors know about what we do
 - Donate or consider legacy giving
 - Do you have an overgrown yard? Consider hosting a PlantAmnesty workshop.

FAQs about PlantAmnesty's Programs

- **What is PA's Referral Service?**
 - PlantAmnesty provides referrals to the public for professional gardeners, arborists, diagnosticians, consultants, and designers in King County and southern Snohomish county, as well as arboricultural consultants in Kitsap and Pierce Counties.
 - Our Referral Service takes into account your specific needs and matches you personally with a professional who can meet those needs. Our Gardeners and Arborists are carefully vetted and committed to outstanding customer service, professionalism, and best industry practices.
 - If you would like to hire a gardener or arborist, email referrals@plantamnesty.org, call us at 206-783-9813, or complete the form on our website.
 - If you would like to become a Referral Service member, contact communityprograms@plantamnesty.org.
 - To be eligible for membership in PlantAmnesty's Referral Service:
 - Gardeners must pass a written test on pruning and general horticulture knowledge.
 - Arborists must be ISA certified and be sponsored by one of our Tree Programs Committee Members.
 - Both gardeners and arborists must sign a policy and ethics statement and pay a semi-annual fee.
- **What is The Last 6000?**
 - TL6K is campaign officially launched on April 1, 2019 to document and map Seattle's majestic trees with 30"+ trunk diameter. Submit your majestic tree and view the city map at www.thelast6000.org.

- **What is The Heritage Tree Program?**

- The Heritage Tree Program is a cooperative program between the City of Seattle and PlantAmnesty to celebrate Seattle's Special Trees.
- This program has been on temporary hiatus while navigating new tree regulations, but reinstatement is in process for 2025.
- Heritage trees may be on either City or private property. Each candidate tree is assessed by a certified arborist and evaluated by a review committee. Trees can be nominated as an individual or a collection, but must have the owner's approval and meet criteria for health in addition to being selected according to one of the following categories:
 - Specimen: A tree of exceptional size, form, or rarity.
 - Historic: A tree recognized by virtue of its age, its association with or contribution to a historic structure or district, or its association with a noted person or historic event.
 - Landmark: Trees that are landmarks of a community.
 - Collection: Trees in a notable grove, avenue, or other planting.
- Submit your nominations on the Seattle Dept. of Transportation website

- **What is the Cass Turnbull Garden?**

- The Cass Turnbull Garden is a future Seattle Parks and Rec public garden honoring the memory and mission of PlantAmnesty's founder. Work began on the garden in 2019 but has slowed since SPR took possession of the Kay Bullitt property on Capitol Hill where the garden resides.
- With explicit SPR permission we are allowed to hold monthly work parties to maintain the plantings that have already been installed in the garden but have been instructed not to do any new work on the garden and to cease offering tours. If you wish to help at the monthly work parties, contact info@plantamnesty.org.