



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Emory Knoll Farms, Inc.



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Wholesale Nursery for Green Roof Plants
Member since January 2010

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

Emory Knoll Farms, Inc. is a wholesale nursery in Harford Co., Maryland, managed in order to grow plants in an ecologically responsible manner. We are dedicated to sustainability, both in our environment, and in our business practices.

Environmental Team

We are a very small company (7 full-time and 3-5 seasonal employees). Our business was founded on the premise of being sustainable and having minimal environmental impact. We are guided by the "Natural Step" (www.naturalstep.org) framework for environmental impact decision-making.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

We provide plants for green roofs, which have a positive impact on the environment in terms of storm water quality and quantity. Our plants are on approximately 4 million square feet (around 100 acres) of rooftop across the U.S. Assuming annual rainfall of 40" and average retention of 50%, green roofs using our plants are retaining about 4½ million cubic feet of storm water annually, relieving pressure on water treatment plants and other 'downstream' storm water mitigation solutions.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

We purchase feeder materials made of re-used and recycled materials whenever possible. We use a proprietary mixed growing medium for our plants, primarily made of composted pine bark/needles, coconut fiber (coir) and rice hulls. The pine is a reclaimed byproduct of the lumber industry. The coconut and rice hulls are byproducts of those industries.

We also use local sources for materials whenever possible. Our boxes are procured locally, made from recycled material, and are marked to encourage recycling.

It is Emory Knoll Farms' policy to consider local merchants before purchasing from chain businesses or mail-order businesses.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

We are attempting to reduce our overall footprint on the land by re-establishing native flora and fauna and eradicating invasive plant species. We have devoted over 100 acres, of the total 140 acres of the farm, to reforestation and meadow restoration. We currently have nearly 150 species of birds, on record, which use the farm to breed, to over-winter, or, as a migratory stopover. We participate in the Conservation Reserve Program ([CREP](#)) & Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program ([WHIP](#)), receiving grants to eliminate invasive native plants and to restore habitat on the unused property, here at our nursery.

We sometimes host area and regional school groups, and we participate with numerous colleges and universities involved in green roof and storm water retention research.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction

We reuse nursery trays, boxes, and packaging materials whenever possible. We have never printed a paper catalog for our plants - all of our product information is available solely online (www.greenroofplants.com) to reduce paper, printing, and mailing. This is the way we've done business since the company's inception in 2004, so there are no savings metrics available, but it is fair to assume that we avoid many tons of paper annually.

Recycling

Items not appropriate for reuse are recycled whenever possible. We recycle paper products, paper boxes, bottles and cans (glass, plastic, metal). Our offices are furnished with used office furniture.

Composting

All organic materials, including plants, cuttings, potting mix, and staff food waste are composted.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

Our nursery uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM), whenever possible. We do much of our necessary weeding by hand, or, by burning with handheld torches.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

We have installed compact fluorescent and high efficiency lighting; purchased Energy Star equipment whenever possible; set computers to power saving modes. In winter, we heat only 3 out of 24 greenhouses where tender seedlings or collection species are kept. Our remaining plants are allowed to naturally vernalize in unheated greenhouses.

Renewable Energy

Emory Knoll Farms has the following renewable energy systems on site:

- *1200 grid-intertied photovoltaic system,*
- *solar water wells and solar water pressure pumps.*

Transportation

Efficient Business Travel

Whenever possible, conference calls are used instead of personal travel.

Fleet Vehicles

We use a Nissan cargo van for most of our local deliveries (from New York to Northern VA), in order to reduce the amount of shipping done with larger, less-efficient rental trucks.

Water

Water Conservation

We use covered houses in the winter, shade cloth in the summer, and manually water plants, where needed, to conserve water. We have some large holding tanks, one of which captures rainwater, to help to keep a pond filled during dry stretches of weather.

We have composting toilets for staff, which use no water or chemical additives.

Stormwater Management and Site Design

The actual business footprint is about 12 acres of a 140 acre farm. The remainder of the land is in a habitat restoration program. All farm roads are unpaved.

We have completed installation of a number of vernal (seasonal) ponds that collect and store rainwater, and dry out during drier seasons. These ponds provide rainwater retention, and habitat for native flora and fauna.

We have installed storm water retention gardens on the property, and, green roofs on numerous nursery buildings, to reduce flooding, and to provide examples of the technology for visitors and clients.

Green Building

LEED/Green Globes/Living Building Challenge/International Green Construction Code (IgCC)

While we do not have LEED ratings on any of our own buildings, our offices, storage, and workspaces are situated in a 60-year-old former dairy barn that has been converted for the use of the nursery. We have made extensive use of renewable, reclaimed, and recycled building materials, including:

- Homasote wall board (made from recycled newsprint)
- Bamboo and linoleum flooring
- Sustainably harvested wood

Other



Since 1998, Emory Knoll Farms Inc. has been the nation's leading supplier of green roof plants in North America. Green roofs are a proven technology that help to reduce storm water run-off, and also, to increase the efficiency of heating and cooling systems in both commercial and residential buildings. We have more experience in the US, in green roof horticulture, than any other nursery. We are active in green roof plant research and collaborate with educational institutions, nurseries, and colleagues in the green roof industry, worldwide.

Owner and President, Ed Snodgrass, has written several books on green roofs. He has consulted on projects and lectured on green roof horticulture, around the world. He is presently on the Board of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities. He is a two-time Harford County MD Conservation Farmer of the Year, two-time Harford Land Trust Conservation Award winner, and, a recipient of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Spencer Ellis Award – given “for significant contribution to preservation and conservation of local environments.”

Profile Updated November 2019



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

