

Green Gardening



Planting a vegetable or flower garden seems like the perfect thing to do when you are looking for ways to adopt a more "green" lifestyle. Some traditional gardening practices, however, may not be quite as "green" as you might think. Planning your gardens with the environment in mind and choosing some practices that maintain healthy ecosystems can help you create a truly "green" garden.

- Plant local and native species of trees and shrubs which are naturally adapted to the conditions in your area, thus requiring less watering and having natural defenses for local insect pests and plant diseases.
- Collect rainwater for watering your container gardens and new transplants.
- Use organic compost and mulch to improve soil health and reduce the need for pesticides and fertilizers. Use disease-resistant and pest-resistant plants.
- Try to use natural products instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Use traps, parasites and natural predators such as ladybugs and lacewings. Use plants that repel insects – basil, chives, mint, marigolds or mums mixed in with other plants help to keep pests away.

These are just a few of the simple changes you can make in your gardening practices that will benefit the environment. More and more "green" products are readily available to help you maintain the natural health of your garden.

- **Dr Earth** contains probiotic beneficial soil microbes, plus ecto- and endo- mycorrhizae which feed the fiber of the living soil by releasing natural organic matter. People and pet safe.
- **Dr Earth** pest controls are organic controls for all of your pest problems. People and pet safe.
- **Espoma Organic Traditions** line of products includes bone meal, kelp meal, garden sulphur, potash and garden lime for helping to improve your soil.
- **Bonide** offers organic fertilizers as well as organic formulas for pest and plant disease control, such as fruit tree sprays.
- **Scotts Organic Choice** lawn care products provide more environmentally friendly choices for your yard.

Developing "green" gardening practices benefits you and your family, your garden, your native plants and animals, your water supply – our world, all of us.

