

GREEN LIVING

GREEN GARDENING CHECKLIST

- Decrease areas of grass as grass typically needs more water than other plants
- Select xeriscaping plants (use plants for dry or harsh climates that require minimal watering)
- Select enviroscaping plants (use plants to reduce energy use)
- Select zero-scaping plants (use native plants and succulents and more sparse plantings)
- Select plants with biodegradable pots
- If you can't find plants in biodegradable pots use perennials instead of annuals
- Use organic fertilizers. Check with your local extension service for products to use in your area.
- Mulch with natural products such as leaves or pine needles. Mulch holds in moisture and helps block the growth of weeds in your garden.
- Use eco-friendly insect repellents instead of chemical insecticides. Check with your local extension service for products to use in your area.
- Use rain barrels to collect rain water to use for plant watering, washing cars or for washing your hair!
- Select plants that require less water; look for conservation tags
- Select plants that are native to your area (these often require less maintenance, chemicals and water)
- Select plants that encourage birds, bees and butterflies to maintain a healthy balanced habitat
- Select plants that will not attract unwanted animals like rabbits and deer unless you want rabbits and deer in your landscaping
- Don't purchase invasive species. Check with your local agencies to find out which plants to avoid.
- Compost. Check with local agencies for ways to start your own compost bin at home.
- Install a rain gauge on your sprinkler system so sprinklers don't run after and during a rain
- Run your sprinklers during hours best for your area of the country. Avoid watering during the heat of the day, and check with your local extension service for the best times to water in your area.
- Consider using beneficial insects native to your area to control damaging insect pests
- Use reel (manual) lawn mowers instead of gas or electric
- Save water by using drip lines in landscape beds instead of sprinkler heads (less evaporation)
- Plant your own food source
- Use indoor plants to clean the air naturally