

*Could you be*  
**Gardening Greener?**



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**Gardening is just naturally**  
**"Green"**



**Gardening "Greener"**

- Is about **making informed choices** about:
  - Plants you buy
  - Products you use
  - Practices you employ



**Gardening "Greener"**

- Is about **the big picture** of
  - Global warming
  - Environmental protection
  - Quality of life



**Gardening "Greener"**

- **Issues** include
  - Air quality
  - Water quality
  - Conserving resources
  - Preserving habitats
  - Health & well-being



**Gardening "Greener"**

- For better **Air quality**

Plants clean the air - especially trees



FreeFoto.com

## Gardening "Greener"

- You can reduce emissions
  - Use fewer gas & electric powered machines
    - mowers, weed eaters, leaf blowers



- Buy local products that use less gas to be transported



## Gardening "Greener"

- Don't burn yard waste
  - compost it, bury it, recycling center




## Gardening "Greener"

- For better Water Quality**
  - Reduce polluted runoff
    - Use fewer toxic products – soluble fertilizers, synthetic pesticides
    - Use organic matter and slow release fertilizers when practical




## Gardening "Greener"

- Use well-informed pest control
  - Positively identify the pest or problem
  - Learn the most effective, least toxic way to control
    - Planting, watering, fertilizing differently
    - Remove & destroy the infected part
    - Encourage natural control agents like insects
    - Choose organic pesticide products



## Gardening "Greener"

- Clean leaves out of curbs and storm drains
  - Less phosphorous goes into storm water



## Gardening "Greener"

- Encourage infiltration
  - Reduce stormwater volume in combined sewer system
    - Rain gardens, planting beds, "lawn bumps"
    - Porous pavement
    - Rain barrels





### Gardening "Greener"

- **To Conserve Resources**
  - **Energy**
    - Fossil fuels
    - Gas-powered equipment
    - Electric landscape lighting
  - **Water**
    - Collect rain water to water plants
    - Avoid overhead watering
    - Use drip irrigation systems
    - "Xeriscape"




### Gardening "Greener"

- **Soil**
  - Prevent erosion of bare soil
    - Cover with plantings, lawn, organic mulches, cover crops, mulches
    - Less phosphorus goes into lakes & streams
  - Improve soil health
    - Add organic matter
      - Better structure less likely to erode
      - Increases microorganisms which release more nutrients from organic matter



### Gardening "Greener"

- Use less synthetic fertilizer
  - Can run off into surface water
    - especially phosphorus
  - Can enter groundwater
  - They are mined
    - destroys habitats
    - non-renewable
  - Processing uses fossil fuels and pollutes air



### Gardening "Greener"

- Peat moss is a non-renewable resource
  - Substitute with coir, or "Re-pete", or compost




### Gardening "Greener"

- Avoid plastic
  - Uses fossil fuels to make
  - Is difficult to recycle
  - Does not degrade
  - Substitute with grain husk, coir, or bamboo products

UW-Extension pot recycling event at Boerner B.G. in June



## Gardening "Greener"

- Use only sustainable wood products
  - Approved by the Forest Stewardship Council &/or Sustainable Forest Initiative
  - Use only renewable tropical woods
    - Iroko, ipe, paraper, kempas
    - **Not** teak, mahogany, nyatoh, balace, jatoba (Brazilian cherry)
  - Wood substitutes – recycled plastic and wood fiber combinations
    - Trex, Timbertec, etc.




## Gardening "Greener"

- **To Protect Habitats**
  - Plant diverse species to create diverse ecosystems
    - Select plants to meet the needs of
      - Butterflies
      - Birds
      - Bees and other pollinators
      - Frogs and other amphibians




## Gardening "Greener"

- Use native plant species when appropriate



## Gardening "Greener"

- Control invasive exotic plant species
  - Garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle, purple loosestrife and many, many, many, many more
  - They reduce biodiversity






## Gardening "Greener"

- For **Health & Well-being**
  - Grow organic vegetables, fruits and herbs



Use pesticide products wisely according to label recommendations

## Gardening "Greener"

- Relieve stress
- Get some exercise!
- Derive satisfaction from nurturing nature



Physical activity can be something enjoyable such as gardening. It doesn't have to mean time down the gym!

## Gardening "Greener"

- Accommodate your physical limitations
  - Ergonomic tools, pulleys, raised beds, containers, vertical wall planters, scooters, kneelers, etc.




Adjusts up to 31"

MINIMIZES STRESS  
Wrist to Soft  
Neutral Position

Secure  
Comfortable Grip

MAXIMIZES POWER  
Energy Flows From  
Large Muscles to Blade

TRADITIONAL GARDEN TOOLS

Push Down  
Twist Wrist

Push Down  
Twist Wrist

Push Down  
Twist Wrist

## Gardening "Greener"

- Garden with children – to strengthen intergenerational relationships & sustain cultural traditions
- Beautify the neighborhood & strengthen your community



Can you be

## Gardening Greener?

Take the **Gardening Greener Survey**

at the UW-Extension  
**Master Gardener  
Volunteer**  
booth  
(#1824 – 26)

