



UW-Extension in Milwaukee & Waukesha Counties

Gardening Greener (Full Survey)

Circle the answer that best applies to you for each of the following statements:

On the issue of Water Quality:

1) I reduce stormwater runoff using a rain barrel, rain garden, "lawn bump" or porous pavement. This reduces the volume going to storm sewers, erosion, runoff of petroleum products and particulates while filtering out pollutants.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
2) I use the least toxic, most effective pesticide according to label directions and only for problems which cannot be controlled by cultural, physical or biological practices.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
3) I use organic forms of nitrogen to fertilize to reduce leaching of excess.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
4) I prevent soil erosion from bare soil by mulching or planting. Soil in runoff carries phosphorus, clogs storm drains and natural waterways.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
5) I use organic forms of nitrogen and phosphorus such as manure and compost as much as possible to reduce runoff and leaching into groundwater & streams.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
6) I minimize the use of salt containing de-icing compounds & sand and never use fertilizer as a de-icer.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
7) I clean out my street gutters and storm drains to reduce runoff of phosphorus and nitrogen from these organic materials.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
Score:			

On the issue of Air Quality:

8) I use a mechanical or electric lawn mower and little other gas powered equipment to help reduce emissions.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
9) I choose local sources of gardening products to reduce emissions from transport.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
10) I recycle rather than burn yard waste to avoid production of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
11) I nurture trees to serve as air purifiers because they use carbon dioxide, produce oxygen, collect harmful particulates and dust and remove air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and ozone.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
Score:			

On the issue of Recycling:

12) I compost yard waste & trimmings either right in place or in a managed pile and use it in planting beds and gardens to improve soil structure & provide nutrients in a form less likely to runoff or leach into water sources.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
13) I use cut and fallen branches as plant supports and for structures in the garden.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
14) I reuse egg cartons, food containers, milk jugs, etc. for seed starting, growing, pest control, plant labels and frost protection.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
15) I select products made from recycled, renewable and sustainable sources for containers, structures & outdoor furniture.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
16) I recycle or reuse garden products as much as possible.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
17) I chip branches and twigs from my yard trimmings or I use municipal woodchips and use it to mulch planting beds to prevent erosion, reduce weeds & retain moisture.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
18) I select plants suited to my soil, moisture and climate that are resistant to common pests to reduce pesticides use and death which reduces yard waste to manage.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
Score:			



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On the issue of Conserving Resources:

Water:			
19) I direct water to plant roots with watering devices or trickle irrigation to prevent evaporative losses.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
20) I plant species with like water requirements in groups with those needing the most closest to the water source (xeriscaping).	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
21) I collect rainwater using rain barrels and use it to water landscape plants.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
22) I water according to plant needs not on a calendar schedule or timer.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
Soil:			
23) I prevent soil erosion and retain soil moisture using organic mulch materials over bare soil and in planting beds.			No or N/A
24) I care for my soil by adding organic soil amendments, not overtilling, avoiding compacting it, working it when its wet and use of excess de-icing products.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
Energy:			
25) I conserve energy needed for heating and cooling by planting windbreaks and shade trees in strategic locations around my home.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
26) I use low-voltage or solar landscape lighting set with photovoltaic and/or motion sensors.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
27) I am aware of and try to reduce energy use by reducing my use of gas-powered equipment, for long distance shipping of gardening materials and supplies (buying locally), for plastic pot production (product selection), for synthetic fertilizer production, etc.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
Habitat:			
28) I plan areas of my property to be ecosystems which provide for the needs of diverse species of plants, animals, birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects, reptiles, amphibians and microorganisms (National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat program).	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
29) I minimize the use of pest control products which are toxic to beneficial species of plants, animals and insects.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
30) I manage invasive plant species on my own property to the extent possible, assist with volunteer 'Weed Outs', and/or distribute literature and information about invasive species control to neighbors and the general public.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
31) I select native plants when appropriate for site conditions and landscape functions.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
32) I use sustainable wood products (tropicals like iroko, ipe, parapera, kempas, & bamboo; wood certified by Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forest Initiative, Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund or Greenpeace; or recycled plastic lumber such as Trex and Timbertec) for garden structures and furniture rather than non-sustainable tropicals like teak, mahogany, myatoh, balace, jatoba (Brazilian cherry).	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
Score:			



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On the issue of Health and Well-Being:

33) I get exercise while caring for my garden (or by volunteering for SEWMG garden projects) which strengthens my muscles, heart and lungs.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
34) I produce at least some fresh, organic fruit, vegetables or herbs to improve my diet.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
35) I accommodate my physical limitations by using ergonomic tools, kneelers, raised beds, containers, vertical wall planters, etc.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
36) I strengthen intergenerational relationships and pass on ethnic and cultural traditions by gardening with children and other family members.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
37) I contribute to my neighbors & community through continuing education and volunteer service through environmentally related garden projects.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
38) I increase my sense of well-being thru nurturing plants, providing habitat for animals, insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians and appreciation of the beauty and wonder of nature.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
39) I always rely on university research-based information to make my gardening choices.	Yes	Somewhat	No or N/A
Score:			

Total Yes: ____ X 5 = ____

Total Somewhat: ____ X 3 = ____

Total No & N/A: ____ X 1 = ____

YOUR TOTAL SCORE: _____

Could You Be *Gardening Greener*?

40 - 78: You've got a good start.

79 - 116: You're well on your way.

117 - 194: You're doing GREAT.

195: **Perfect!** You already are *Gardening Greener!*



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Gardening Greener! is an educational initiative of the University of Wisconsin-Extension in Milwaukee County through the Consumer Horticulture program. Its objective is to give perspective to the environmental issues affected by yard and garden practices commonly used to care for residential properties.

Using the results of this survey, you can determine practices that you may wish to change or incorporate into your own yard care to minimize your negative impacts on the environment.

More information on all of these gardening techniques and environmental issues are available through UW-Extension. Contact your county Extension office or visit our many useful websites to obtain reliable, university research based information you can use where you live, work and garden.

Horticulture Helplines

Milwaukee County UW-Extension (414) 256-4664
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 am – 12:00.
Waukesha County UW-Extension (262) 548-7779
Monday – Friday from 9:00 – 12:00.

UW-Extension Horticulture Center

at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park, Greenfield
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 – 2:00 until May 1st.

UW-Extension Horticulture Team website:

<http://wihort.uwex.edu>

UW-Extension Publications website:

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu>

UW-Extension InfoSource website:

<http://infosource.uwex.edu>

The SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners are volunteers who assist the UW-Extension in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties to bring educational programming to the residents of southeastern Wisconsin. In 2009, they performed over 20,000 hours of volunteer service to the two counties. For more information go to: <http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg> or call (414) 256-4661.