

How can I start using “natural” yard care?

Build healthy soil

- Create a loose soil structure that allows air, water, and deep root growth.
- Recycle nutrients and make them available to plants.
- Composting improves soil.

Think twice before using pesticides

- Pesticides can harm pets and people—especially children.
- Improperly using pesticides allows them to enter the stormwater system.
- Pesticides are often overused, when pulling weeds is more effective.

Practice natural lawn care

- Mow higher (1-2 inches), mow regularly, and leave the clippings or “grasscycling” on the lawn .
- Water deeply to moisten the whole root zone, but less frequently.
- Use slow release organic fertilizers.
- Apply fertilizers in small applications, no more than 3-4 time/year for a vigorous lawn.
- Visit <http://gardening.wsu.edu/text/faqlawn/htm> for more information

Practice smart watering

- Choose low water-use plants that can often thrive on rainfall alone.
- Use rain barrels to store water until plants need it.
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation on beds – they save 50% or more compared with sprinklers.

Plant right for your site

- Plant trees and use native plants, especially ones with fruit and flowers.
- Group plants by their needs.
- Plant in layers (ground cover, shrubs, and trees) so your landscape is like the forest.



More Information?

<http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/yard/>

