

A to Z Recycling

Green Tips



6 More Ways to Be Green in the Garden

- 1. WAYS TO WATER EFFICIENTLY** - use soaker hoses, avoid watering in the middle of the day to reduce losses due to evaporation, deep soak each time to ensure water reaches the roots, collect rainwater wherever and whenever you can, water only when plants need it, and mulch like crazy.
- 2. BIRDS** - make your yard bird-friendly because they'll prey on bugs that prey on your plants.
- 3. WEEDING** - 40% of chemicals we use on our lawns are banned in other countries. If you can't learn to love your lawn weeds, pull them by hand. For weeds in pavement cracks, pour boiling water on them. For weeds in the garden, mulch like crazy and for the ones that still come up, pull them by hand after a good rain. It's so easy it's almost fun.
- 4. PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVES** - for aphids, spider mites and other soft-bodied pests, use a strong blast of water from the hose or insecticidal soap. For tougher insects use pyrethrum, made from mums. For all other pests, we like neem oil.
- 5. FERTILIZER ALTERNATIVES** - Say "no" to synthetic fertilizers forever. It's like putting your plants on steroids. They destroy beneficial organisms, your soil, and they're made from non-renewable energy sources including natural gas.
Good fertilizers contain bloodmeal, bonemeal, green sand, etc. Or go organic, but make sure it's true organic. True organic means the amounts of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) when totaled are less than 15.
Ex: N:5 + P:4 + K:5 = <15
- 6. COMPOST** - we could sing about compost all the live long day. Whether you make it or buy it, it's the best ingredient you could possibly give your plants. Work 2-4 inches into your soil before planting and you won't even need to fertilize.

