

# A to Z Recycling

Green Tips



## 5 Ways to Be Green in the Garden

- 1. COMPOST.** Adding this FREE organic material to your beds helps soil retain and drain water, *and* it encourages better looking plants.
  - Dig a 2-foot hole in the back yard, cut out the bottom of a cheap plastic garbage can and insert it into the hole. When finished, about half the can will be above ground. Keep the lid on when it's not in use.
  - Alternate "greens" and "browns" in 4-8" layers. Greens are fruit/veggie scraps, eggshells, coffee grounds, and grass/plant clippings. Avoid diseased plants. Browns are dry, chopped leaves, finely chopped wood, shredded newspaper, straw, and sawdust from untreated wood.
  - Sprinkle water regularly for a sponge-like consistency and turn the pile once a week during the growing season.
  - It's ready when it no longer emits heat and is dry, brown and crumbly.
- 2. NO MORE SPRINKLERS.** A far less wasteful method that is much more direct is to use soaker hoses. They're hard to break, inexpensive, and they get the job done. If you're really savvy, create a rain reclamation system using your downspouts.
- 3. \$3.28 A GALLON???** If your yard is a manageable size and you could stand to burn about 400 more calories a week, sell the gas-powered mower and leaf blower. Instead, grab a rake and push mower and work it! Your body will thank you.
- 4. LET IT GROW.** Lawns look better when you wait until the grass is slightly longer than usual to cut it. The shade provided by the blades enriches your soil. Adjust your blade so that you're not creating a golf course.
- 5. STOP FERTILIZING.** Good compost eliminates the need for fertilizing.