



Green Gardening

Why Consider Gardening Green?

-  Less Water – reduce your water consumption.
-  Less Pesticides – reduce your impact on local wildlife.
-  Less Fertilizers – reduce your impact on local waterways.
-  Less Maintenance – reduce the amount of time you need to spend making your garden and lawn look great!



1. Conserving Water

-  Water your lawn in the morning, this reduces evaporation and therefore you use your water more efficiently.
-  Use a rain barrel to collect water. This water is great for your plants since it is free from chlorine.
-  Water your lawn slowly and thoroughly. This stimulates deep root growth. Shallow rooted grass is more susceptible to insects and drought.
-  Don't cut your lawn shorter than 6 to 8 cm. Longer grass blades shade the roots and keep the soil cool, reducing the need for watering.
-  Leave grass clippings/mulch on your lawn. Grass clipping can be up to 90% water and are a great natural fertilizer.



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2. Reduce the use of chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides

Some pesticide and herbicides can be harmful to the environment and your health. Some municipalities even have by-laws against using them. So what are your alternatives?

-  Plants such as garlic and chives keep aphids away. Liquid soap can be mixed with water and applied to the leaves of plants and directly on insect infestations.
-  By installing a hollow tube in the ground, you can trap earwigs.
-  Slugs can be trapped with a saucer with beer placed in the garden.



3. Plant Native Species in your garden

Follow nature's way by planting native plant species. By planting native plants, you increase biodiversity and attract animals such as birds and butterflies that use native plants as habitat. Native plants are adapted to our environment so they are more water efficient and don't require the use of chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers.

4. Select a low maintenance lawn

Common Name	Scientific Name
Canada Bluegrass	<i>Poa compressa</i>
Chewing Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra var. cummutata</i>
Creeping Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Kentucky Bluegrass	<i>Poa pretensis</i>

Sources: www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca, www.goforgreen.ca, <http://www.sankey.ws/ecolawn.html>



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