



Greener Gardening

by Joy Cordery

Nearly every gardener is eager to preserve the environment. Here are some common sense tips. Check off how many you already observe and try to add one or two you haven't.

- 🌱 Limit your use of gasoline-powered tools like leaf blowers and lawn mowers. Each gallon of gasoline you burn puts 20 pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere.
- 🌱 Avoid synthetic fertilizers, especially those that are nitrogen-based. Their manufacture produces large amounts of global warming pollution. Also, Nitrogen greater than 15 cm N-P-K goes straight into our ground water.

- 🌱 Have your soil analyzed every three years to avoid overusing fertilizer. This can be done inexpensively through your Cooperative Extension office.

- 🌱 Choose organic weed control and pesticides. Chemical pesticides and weed killers add to global warming pollution and can be harmful to other plants and wildlife.

- 🌱 Rotate crops every four years. This reduces the risk of crop-specific pest and diseases.

- 🌱 Never leave your soil naked. Use cover crops to keep carbon in the soil

- 🌱 Compost food scraps, leaves and other yard waste. Use this rich material to enhance and amend your soil.

- 🌱 Plant native species. Native plants are better suited to local conditions and can help wildlife and pollinators thrive.

Source: The Environmental Defense Fund article, "Climate Friendly Gardens"