

# Green Gardening: Eco-Friendly Home Gardening

The plants you choose and the practices you use can protect and enhance the environment.

1. **Create places to sit, eat, relax, or walk in your garden.** The more you enjoy it, the more you will notice nature, and the easier it becomes to make it a great place for people, animals, and plants.
2. **Compost on site:** leave leaves in the beds, use a mulch mower on them for the lawn, and break sticks into smaller pieces and tuck under bushes.  
In spring, for a tidy appearance, cover the leaves in the beds with a thin layer of **the borough's leaf mold**. All leaves provide ready nourishment for your plants.
3. **Plant a deciduous shade tree south and/or west of your house.** It lowers your cooling costs in summer and after the leaves drop in the fall, the sun will help warm the house.
4. **Avoid the use of pesticides.**
5. **Use organic fertilizers**, such as leaf mold, mushroom soil, dried manure, bone meal. Buy from Swarthmore Borough, Mostardi's in Newtown Square, Hilltop in Media, and small quantities from Swarthmore Hardware.
5. Select **drought-tolerant plants** that, once established, will need little or no additional watering. If you reseed lawn, use fescues, which have deep roots.
6. Incorporate **native plants**, which provide food and shelter for birds and insects.  
Use **hardy plants** (Given the right water and light, anyone can grow these plants.), which mean less work for the gardener, fewer trips to replace plants, etc. Many drought-tolerant, hardy and/or native plants are very attractive, with interesting features.
7. Make your garden a **Certified Wildlife Habitat**, by providing food, water, cover, and places to raise young, and using sustainable gardening practices.
8. **Grow food!** Start with summer tomatoes, greens in spring and fall, add some berries. For an aesthetically elevated approach to growing vegetables, look at Judy Penney's front garden, 130 Rutgers Ave., with boxwood parterres, trellises, and stone paths.
9. **Minimize run off into creeks.** Keep rainwater and groundwater from the sump pump on your property. If you replace walks or driveway, use pervious materials.

Swarthmore Horticultural Society  
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The mission of the Swarthmore Horticultural Society is to create and maintain high quality horticultural gardens in public spaces in order to beautify Swarthmore and to promote an understanding of the value of plants and the environment within our community. New members and volunteers are always welcome!