

## Save yourself time and money And help protect the environment

- Use a greater variety of plants, primarily native, that are right for your site: Practice natural design.
- Reduce lawns to a minimum and change maintenance practices.
- Reduce the use of power equipment.
- Conserve natural resources (soil, water, fossil fuels).
- Compost yard waste.
- Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Create wildlife habitat.
- Avoid, remove invasive exotic plants.
- Protect existing natural areas.
- Use plants to reduce heating and cooling needs for your home.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has developed an extensive web site to explain in detail the problems with traditional landscaping and landscape maintenance and to suggest safer, healthier alternatives. The site contains numerous links to related web sites, many of which contain information specific to states in the Mid-Atlantic region. Please check it out.

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden>



## Become a **GREEN** Gardener

The way you are currently gardening may harm the environment and be expensive and time-consuming too!

Common problems include:

- water pollution from pesticides, fertilizers, and gasoline spills
- air pollution from lawn mowers and other garden equipment
- noise pollution from garden equipment
- excessive consumption of limited natural resources, like fossil fuels to power equipment and water to irrigate lawns and gardens
- solid waste from disposal of leaves and grass clippings
- compromised health and safety of your family and pets from pesticides and mechanical equipment
- declining biodiversity from invasive plants that escape from our gardens
- flooding from overuse of lawns and impervious surfaces
- high labor and dollar costs from maintaining lawns and formal landscapes heavily dependent upon mechanical equipment, labor, pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation

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