



TOP TEN EARTH-FRIENDLY STEPS YOU CAN TAKE AT HOME

Conserve Water



- Adjust irrigation to avoid runoff & overspray
- Use drip irrigation
- Avoid evaporation; irrigate when it's cooler
- Replace lawns with unthirsty, drought-tolerant plants

Apply Mulch



- Conserve moisture; minimize water use
- Reduce weed growth
- Moderate soil temperature
- Encourage beneficial soil organisms

Compost at Home



- Turn organic waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment
- Improve the fertility & health of the soil
- Reduce the need for chemical fertilizers

Manage Pests



- Control pest problems with an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach (2)
- Use a combination of control methods: biological, cultural, physical
- Use the least toxic method for the desired result

Attract Bees & Other Pollinators



- Plant native plants that attract native bees
- Don't use pesticides
- Choose a variety of plants with staggered bloom times
- For more info, visit *How to Attract and Maintain Pollinators in Your Garden* (4)

Select Unthirsty Plants



- Select drought-tolerant plants to:
 - Minimize water use
 - Maximize water uptake
- Check out UC Davis' *Arboretum All-Stars List* for planting ideas & recommendations (1)

Plant a Vegetable Garden



- Plant anywhere—in a back yard, a front yard, a container, or a community garden
- Improve health by eating more vegetables
- Reduce carbon footprint—garden to table

Landscape with Edibles



- Plant strawberries instead of evergreen ground covers
- Plant berry hedges, grape vines
- Plant trees that produce edible fruit

Plant Trees



- Conserve energy by shading buildings and paved surfaces
- Filter airborne pollutants and reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide
- Reduce storm water runoff
- For more info, visit *The California Garden Web* (3)

Create Wildlife Habitat



- Invite wildlife to dinner by providing food sources: berries, seeds, pollen and nectar
- Provide a water source for drinking/bathing
- Establish shelter and a place to raise young with shrubby plants and trees

(1) All Stars Info http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx

(2) IPM Info <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/GENERAL/whatisipm.html>

(3) Tree Info http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Landscape_Trees/?uid=3&ds=411

(4) Pollinator Info <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=8498>