

Go Green in Your Garden



Join efforts to make Teaneck go green by signing on to our email list <http://groups.google.com/group/teaneckgreen>. You can apply to serve on a working group to help draft a sustainability plan for the town, participate in future events and show our elected officials that you support efforts to make Teaneck a sustainable community.

WHY GO GREEN?

These tips will save you money, even hundreds of dollars, while helping make our air and water cleaner and reducing emissions that contribute to global warming.

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ... EXCEPT WHEN IT ISN'T

Your lawn may look green, but it uses more water and petroleum products than you think—and all those costly and toxic chemicals and treatments are certainly NOT green. Replace your lawn with native plantings and ground covers where you can. But where you want grass, the good news is that there are many ways to save money and help the environment without sacrificing beauty. See story at right.

MAKE COMPOST

It's easy, free and if done right will not smell or attract unwanted visitors. You can compost all foods that are not meat or dairy (vegetables and fruit, eggshells, coffee grinds, leaves and grass clippings, etc). It cuts back a lot on landfill-bound trash and creates great soil for your garden.

Xeriscaping – it's the New Landscaping

Xeriscaping—a fancy word for using drought-tolerant native species and minimizing high-maintenance landscaping such as turf grass in your yard.

It can save you big bucks in maintenance costs and it looks great. Native plants have been growing and evolving in our area for thousands of years and, as a result, have adapted to the local soils and climate.

As a result they are more likely to thrive with minimal care, unlike exotic plants. That can mean less need for water, fertilizer and pesticides.

Is your soil healthy?

Test your soil for acidity (the wrong pH promotes weed growth).



Lots of worms mean a healthy soil and a green lawn.

Shop Green

Look for organic and natural pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers on the web and at garden stores – and don't listen to nay-sayers, natural and organic products work as well or better than traditional chemical treatments and may even cost less.

For More Information:

US Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden

Native Plant Society of NJ
www.npsnj.org/

Garden Club of Teaneck
www.gardenclubofteaneck.org/

Composting 101
www.composting101.com



Greener Ways to Grow Your Lawn

Cuts grass high—no less than 3 inches. This helps reduce weeds,

Water deeply (about 1 inch) no more than once per week and in the early dawn hours only.

Soaking your soil once a week encourages deep weed growth and protection in case of a draught. Frequent

watering encourages thatch, weak unhealthy grass and demands more (and expensive) maintenance.

If you have an in-ground sprinkler/mister, set it for about 5 am in the summer for about 20 minutes for each zone. Test with a can to see if this time is right for about an inch.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn—they dissolve in a couple of days and help keep your lawn healthy without chemical fertilizers.

In the fall and spring use organic fertilizers, compost and organic corn-based weed control in place of chemicals that damage the environment.