



**Pots
to
Products**

Plastic Pot Recycling

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

**A Program
that
Works**

Plastic Pot Recycling Works!
Few would question the value of gardening. Yet over 500 million pounds of gardening plastics is generated in the U.S. each year. Don't let garden plastics end up in a landfill. Choose to recycle!

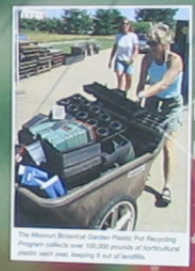
For 10 years, the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis has collected plastic pots and trays from consumers and nurseries. Today, the program has grown from 10,000 pounds to over 100,000 pounds collected per year!

How It Works
Consumers bring clean plastic pots to the Missouri Botanical Garden collection site during specified times. The Garden provides collection bins to ease recycling. As well as all collection points, the consumer is asked to segregate the plastic by type. With the help of volunteers, the plastic is processed into chips.

Closing the Recycling Loop
Local vendors are contracted to process the chips of plastic into various recycled products, which are offered for sale to the public. For example, recycled plastic has been used in benches, walkways, and other garden structures.

Recycling
Plastic is likely to remain the dominant medium for potted plants in the short term. It's lightweight, waterproof, and easy to use for new plants. However, as an increase in the price of petroleum-based virgin plastic makes recycling the more economical and sustainable option until something better is available.

Alternative Pots
Pots made from renewable resources, such as bamboo, and from biodegradable materials such as rice, grass fiber, composted manure, feathers, and recycled paper are being introduced. However, these pots don't have all the desirable durability of plastic yet. In the next 5 to 10 years, commercial nursery pots may be made of bioreplastic, plastic derived from corn which degrades over time.



Informational sign on a wooden post.

