

American Horticultural Society



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

The American Horticultural Society (AHS) is one of the oldest national member-based gardening organizations in North America. Through its educational programs, publications, and awards, the AHS advocates earth-friendly gardening practices, promotes plant-based education for children, recognizes leaders in American gardening, and showcases the art and science of horticulture. AHS members include home gardeners, professional horticulturists, educators, and Master Gardeners.

As part of its mission, the AHS provides useful and accurate gardening information through multiple sources, including its magazine (*The American Gardener*), website, garden book-publishing program, gardening workshops, online seminars, and special publications such as the AHS Plant-Heat Zone Map. In 2004, the AHS launched the Green Garage® program, which offers gardeners tips and techniques for environmentally responsible gardening practices.

The AHS headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia, is a national showcase for horticulture. The 25-acre site along the Potomac River features formal gardens, meadows, demonstration areas, and children's gardens.

7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308 (703) 768-5700 • www.ahs.org
The American Horticultural Society would like to thank Merrifield Garden Center, Monrovia, and Furbish Company for their generosity in support of this exhibit.



Use an integrated approach to control plant pests and diseases.

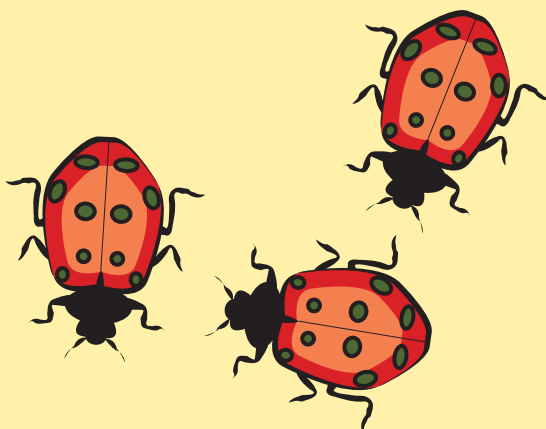


What You Can Do...

- Learn about biological and cultural options for minimizing damage.
- Encourage beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, and other wildlife, such as little brown bats, to visit your garden.
- Consider the use of pesticides a last resort, and seek out ones that are least toxic to other creatures.



Can you find a ladybug in the Green Garage? Ladybugs look like this:



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Contribute to a green community.



What You Can Do...

- Plant trees to beautify your neighborhood, give wildlife a home, and clean the air.
- Build a green roof or rain garden to reduce storm water runoff.
- Pick up trash in your neighborhood before it ends up in a waterway.



How many different kinds of plants can you see growing on the garage's green roof?

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Be a green consumer by buying durable products made of recycled materials.



You can plant seeds in containers such as yogurt cups and milk cartons. Look for examples of these in the Green Garage.

What You Can Do...

- Instead of throwing away plastic plant pots, reuse them or check with your local nursery to see if it recycles pots.
- Save energy by using compact fluorescent bulbs in outdoor light fixtures or switching to solar-powered lights.
- When shopping for garden furniture, look for those made of recycled or sustainably harvested materials.



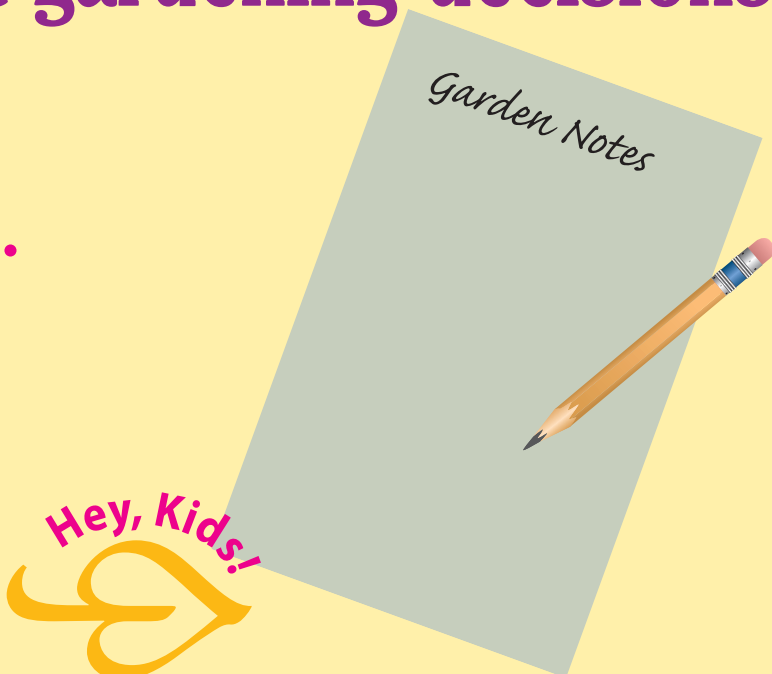
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Learn about new plants, products, and techniques to make the best gardening decisions.



What You Can Do...

- Contact your local botanic garden and garden center to find out what grows well in your region and what gardening classes or workshops they offer.
- Join a gardening club to share your experiences with other gardeners.
- Keep a garden journal so you can learn what works and what doesn't.



Containers offer a way to grow plants if you don't have a yard. How many different types of containers do you see here?

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Select plants suited to your region and garden conditions.



What You Can Do...

- Use low-maintenance plants that require minimal supplemental water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Learn about a plant's preferred soil type, light exposure, and other growing conditions before planting it to ensure you can provide what it needs to thrive.
- Avoid plants that are invasive in your region and learn about alternatives that you can grow instead.



**If YOU were a plant,
would you like to
grow in the sun or
in the shade?**

www.greengarage.org

Protect yourself and the environment when you work in the garden.



What can you find in the Green Garage to protect your face from the sun?

What You Can Do...

- Wear a hat and sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 when outside, even on cloudy days.
- Find out about your local government's hazardous waste program so you can safely dispose of leftover pesticides and other chemicals. Better yet, don't use them in the first place.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and insect repellent if needed to guard against tick and mosquito bites.

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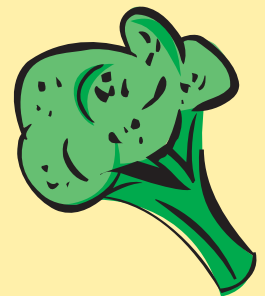
Reduce waste going to landfills by composting organic matter.



Peek inside the compost bin to see what kinds of things you can recycle.

What You Can Do...

- About one-third of the space in landfills is taken up with organic waste from our yards and kitchens. Instead of throwing away this material, recycle it in your garden to make a wonderful soil amendment.
- Put only vegetable scraps, leaves, grass clippings, and other non-meat or dairy waste in your compost pile to avoid odors and attracting unwanted animals.
- If you don't have a yard, use a worm bin to recycle your vegetable scraps. The resulting "vermicompost" can be used to enrich potting soil.



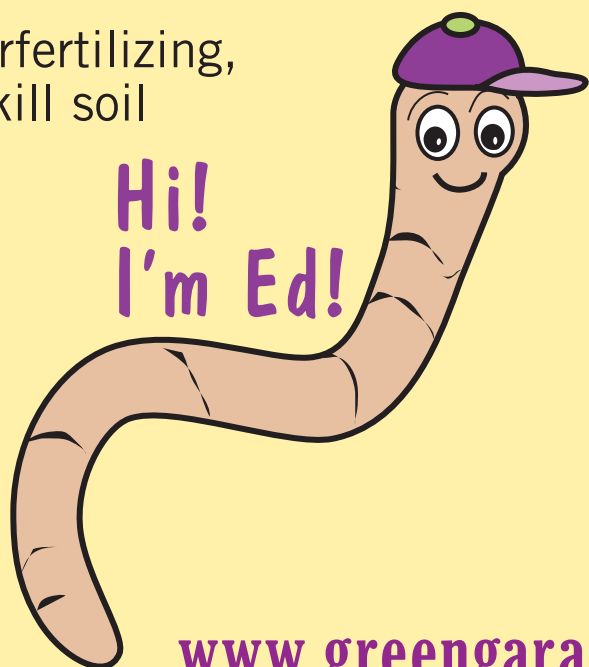
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Take good care of your soil for a greener garden and a healthier environment.



What You Can Do...

- Amend your soil with organic matter such as compost to improve its water-holding capacity and encourage the growth of beneficial microorganisms.
- Have your soil tested to determine its pH level and if it has any nutrient deficiencies that need to be corrected.
- Avoid overfertilizing, which can kill soil organisms.



Earthworms help create healthy soil. Can you find Ed the Earthworm in the Green Garage?

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Use tools that maximize results and minimize environmental impact.



What You Can Do...

- Use a reel, electric, or battery-powered mower instead of a gasoline-powered lawnmower.
- Clean and properly store your tools after use; a sharp, well-maintained tool makes any job safer and easier.
- If you have a physical limitation, look for specially-designed tools that are lighter-weight and more comfortable to use.



Can you find three tools in the Green Garage that do not use gasoline or electricity to work?



www.greengarage.org



Conserve water by using techniques such as drip irrigation, mulching, and collecting water in rain barrels.



A rain barrel is a big container that collects rainwater from the roof. Can you find the rain barrel in the Green Garage?

What You Can Do...

- To reduce evaporation of soil moisture, apply organic mulches around the base of your plants.
- For most efficient watering, install a drip irrigation system or use soaker hoses to get moisture where you need it.
- Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to collect rainwater for use in watering container-grown plants on a patio or deck.

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