



# Landscaping for the Environment

## Did You Know?

One tree can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.

## Drought-tolerant plants and grasses

**Arkansas natives:** redbud, pin oak, red cedar, honeylocust, prairie wildflower

Also, cacti, some cedars, lantana, viburnum, hollies

Relatively drought-tolerant include crape myrtle, nandina, Chinese junipers and golden raintree

**Grasses include:** buffalo grass and Bermuda grass

Environmental protection begins in your own backyard

## Your yard can be beautiful, inviting and environmentally friendly

There are many ways to enhance the environmental quality of your yard's landscape.

Be aware of exposed soils in your yard where erosion can occur and runoff can carry soil to streams.

Start planting gardens that don't require frequent, heavy watering. Here are other ways to develop environmentally friendly yards:

- Minimize impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways.
- Terrace when you garden on hillsides.
- Plant trees.
- Group plants according to their water needs.
- Attract and enjoy local wildlife, like hummingbirds into your backyard.
- Use pest and disease-resistant plant varieties. Whether you grow roses or tomatoes, certain varieties resist common pests and diseases better than others.
- Diversify your landscaping. Gardens filled with a variety of plants resist the spread of pests and disease better than beds with little variety.
- Go native. Indigenous plants have adapted to the local climate and require less watering and maintenance.

- Enrich your soil with commercial compost or compost you've made from your own household organic waste and yard trimmings. Compost is the dark, earthy material naturally produced by decaying items. The addition of compost keeps your soil loose, moisture holding, fertile and well drained.
- Some plants avoid drought by avoiding the hot season. Choose drought-avoiding plants that grow, flower and die back before the summer heat causes problems. Some to try are: daffodils, irises, poppies, pansies and many wildflowers.

## Thanks to these sources and websites

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu)

Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission

City of Seattle [www.ci.seattle.wa.us](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us)

**ADEQ Helpline (501) 682-0923**

