



Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter



Waste Free Garden

Reduce household and garden waste while saving time and money. From identifying your plants to tying up your tomatoes, everyday household items can help you keep your garden tidy, while keeping waste out of the trash can. The suggestions below can help you spend more time enjoying your plants, and less time and money managing them.

Broken Garden Tools - Stick the handle end into the ground, leaving the shovel or rake head visible. Then, train a vine up the handle or use as a stake to tie up plants.

Composting - Reduce food and yard waste, and eliminate the need for petroleum-based fertilizers and pesticides, by composting at home. Learn more at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/compost.html>.

Curtains and Linens - Use threadbare linens as shade cloth for light sensitive plants. Dress plants with heavy blankets or curtains in the event of a frost. Drape plants with sheer curtains to prevent chewing insects from damaging them.

Dishes - Use a chipped bowl as a slug trap in the garden by filling it with stale beer. Turn large dishes, such as a baking dish, into a unique birdbath. Use broken dishes for mosaic pots or stepping stones.

Leaky Hose - Cut away the damaged section of hose and rejoin the two good pieces with a hose connector. If it's beyond repair, make a soaker hose by puncturing small holes along its length, then cap or kink the end closed. Cut sections of the hose and slide over the chains on a swing-set to prevent pinched fingers. Cut a section, then cut along the length and slide it over the teeth of a saw or other sharp tools for storage.

Native Plants - Reduce the need for petroleum-based fertilizers and pesticides by gardening and landscaping with native plants. Learn more at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/NativePlants.html>.

Pantyhose - Cut strips of worn pantyhose to tie plants without damaging their stems. Use larger pieces to cradle heavy produce on vines, such as cantaloupe or squash.

Plastic Bottles - Construct a drip irrigation system for hard to water plants. Leave the lid screwed on, cut the bottom off the bottle, and poke several small holes in the shoulder of the bottle. Bury the bottle, lid down, next to the plant. Fill the bottle with water as needed.

Plastic Knives or Vinyl Blinds - Create plant identifiers using a permanent marker.

Shower Curtains - Use as a skid to transport large plants. Avoid a mess by laying the curtain on the ground, then divide plants on top. When finished, fold up the edges and place the soil back into the garden.

May 2010 Upcoming Events

Details available at

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/calendar2010.html>



Controlling Pests and Providing Fertility Naturally - May 8, 2010 (Saturday) - 9am to 12pm
www.slowfoodstl.org/2010/01/26/good-gardening-good-food-organic-home-gardening-workshops-films

Rain Barrel Workshop - May 8, 2010 (Saturday) - 10am to 11:30pm
www.mobot.org/iebms/coe/coe_p2_details.aspx?eventid=26766&oc=10&cc=educlasses

Native Plant Sale - May 8, 2010 (Saturday) - 1pm to 4pm
www.shawnature.org

Native Plant School - May 13, 2010 (Thursday) - 1pm to 4pm
www.shawnature.org/nativeland/NativePlantSchool.aspx



