

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CITY OF OXFORD
MAYOR'S HOME CONSERVATION TIPS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL:

Spring has sprung. It's that time of year to get out of the house and get the yards in shape for summer and get the gardens ready for planting.

As we do this, please keep the environment in mind, there are so many ways to beautify our lawns and grow foods without harming the environment. Below are just a few tips of eco-friendly ways to do just that and save a little money in the process:

- Start your own Compost Bin – You can get step by step directions on how to build one from the internet or you could always buy one from your local home and garden supply store. Using your own compost saves money and is very beneficial for fertilizing your yards and gardens.
- Put a rain barrel beside your house to catch the runoff, this water can be used for watering plants and gardens, filling a pool, flushing toilets, washing cars and even doing the laundry.
- Fertilizing your yard can be as simple as leaving the grass clippings on the yard when you mow. Yard clippings decompose quickly into a nutrient rich humus, which will provide 25 percent of your lawn's fertilizer needs each year. When you do have to buy fertilizer look for one of the eco-friendly brands that also includes weed control.
- Use a little elbow grease! Instead of all the gas powered machinery that pollutes our air, consider the good ole days, use a rake or a hoe, pull the weeds by hand and for mowing the yard, try a reel mower. They use no gas, no oil, and in no way harm the environment. Plus, it's a great way to get exercise. If you have to have a power mower, there are eco-friendly models available, just check with your local home and garden store.

All of the conservation tips above are not only designed to help our environment, but will, in the long run save money. Whatever the motivation, saving the planet or saving money, follow these tips and do both.

When shopping for your lawn and garden needs, do remember to check with Oxford's vendors first. Ace Hardware, Southern States, and Steve's Lawn and Garden all support our Yard of the Month Program. Please do your part to support them and DT Oxford by shopping locally. They can probably order whatever you are looking for if they don't have it in stock!

One final note, we celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd and Arbor Day on April 26th. On those days, make a conscious effort to do something for the environment so we can leave a cleaner, greener world for future generations.

Green Challenge Committee members:
Commissioners: Betty Moseley (Chair), Ron Bullock, and Calvin "C.J." Harris