

Volume 12, Issue 2.1-2015; April 22, 2015

NW Native Plant Journal

A Quarterly Web Magazine

The Heart of Living Green:
Gardening with Native Plants

Special Earth Day Issue

Easy Composting

Northwest Native Plant Journal

In Every Issue

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It's Your Turn to Lead!



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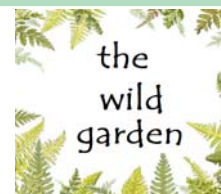
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The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest
Native Plant Database
www.nwplants.com
Editor: Jennifer Rehm, Webmaster



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About this Web Magazine

This Journal was created under the direction of Wally Hansen – a dedicated Grower, Aficionado and Passionate Lover of Northwest Native Plants.

This Journal is not 'commercial.' Our goals are:

- A** — To generate interest, even passion, concerning the magnificent Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest.
- B** — To help you create your own Native Plant Gardens, large or small, for home or work.
- C** — To help you propagate and “grow on” those species that interest you the most.
- D** — To inform both Home Gardeners and interested Professionals of many disciplines concerning trends and news items from my little corner of the world.
- E** — To help the reader enjoy native plants more by understanding the historical and cultural role of native plants (i.e.—use by Native Americans, Pioneers, Early Botanists, etc.).



A planet for all seasons Vine Maple
(*Acer circinatum*)

Gardeners are key land managers. Our choices therefore lie not in whether but in how we manage the land. We would all agree that we must do it in an ecologically responsible way.-George Seddon, Gardening Responsibility



On the Cover

Camas (Camassia)

One of the most striking native wildflowers here in the Pacific northwest, Camas has long been treasured by Original Peoples for its beauty, it's food value, and the annual celebrations that are still held each spring.

In the olden days, there were fields of stunning blue, some adopted by tribal members as their spiritual place and some that were unclaimed for all to enjoy. Nowadays, if you are very lucky, you may find just such a field.

The one at right, though small, is a remembrance of the days when this plant grew in abundance.



Garden chores to do now

Pearly bits of wisdom & just plain common sense

- 1 – Make sure every new plant you put in your garden/landscape is native to your area.
- 2 – Compost your garden waste and use the nutrient rich results instead of chemical fertilizers.
- 3 – Mulch around your plants to conserve water and discourage unwanted plants.
- 4 – Use a contained composter for non-vegetable kitchen waste like meat fats and chicken bones and stinky stuff. See example at right. Plant heavy feeding shrubs around it. They will 'beautify' the composter and thrive in the plentiful natural food.
- 5 – Select a planting site to match what your plant requires. Plant shade-lovers in the shade and sun-lovers in the sun.
- 6 – Use big trimmings from shrubs and trees to build trellises or fences or chairs or supports for other plants.
- 7 – Include plants that provide food and shelter for wildlife in your yard instead of spraying for bugs. The wild things will entertain you and keep destructive bugs to a minimum. For instance, frogs, toads, snakes, blackbirds, thrushes, robins, starlings, crows, jays, ducks and owls love to eat slugs!
- 8 – Remove invasive plants like English ivy and Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberries. Plant native vines and shrubs and bramble berries in their place. (You can put the invasives in your compost digester! The high composting temperature will render them sterile and turn them into mush.)

Choose your non-vegetable composter carefully. Black ones compost faster, tight sealing lid is a must. The bottom is open. The sides should be smooth. Proper installation is critical. Pick a site that gets as much sun as possible. Dig a hole about 6 inches deep to fit composter bottom. Line the hole with heavy duty hardware cloth, 1/2 inch mesh. Place your composter in the hole, mound dirt up around the sides about 6 inches. This will keep critters out. Plant NW native shrubs around it for esthetics. Start piling in the waste and screw the lid down tight after each addition. No chemicals are needed. Once established, you'll find thousands of worms have made themselves quite at home.



Self-contained, sealed compost digester. This simple type of composter will turn almost anything into liquid fertilizer in record time! Works for meat and bones and dog waste--all those problem materials. Does not stink!

Garden Products: Issues & Suggestions

This educational article is from Green Choices, a group of people in the UK--
"Green Living is a World Wide Project." See what some British gardeners are up to: learn new tricks

Garden products: issues and suggestions

If you visit a garden centre, you may be struck by the sheer volume of stuff that we buy for our gardens. Gardening consumes astounding quantities of plastic, bamboo, wood, and metal. Not all garden products are toxic or have a high environmental impact in themselves, but everything has to come from somewhere, and everything has to go somewhere once it's outlived its useful life. Stones and aggregates are natural products, but your tranquil gravelled area may have been made possible by an intrusive quarry somewhere else. And stone is heavy - the energy needed to transport exotic pebbles from overseas will be quite considerable. Pondliners made from low density polyethylene may be marketed as "recyclable" but as there are very few plastics recycling facilities available in the UK, most will probably end up in landfill. (See [editor's notes on page 12.](#))

As with all green thinking, a balance is needed. All of us need beautiful places which make us feel good about ourselves and our lives. Some of the loveliest garden corners are simply grown, not bought or put together, with time and thought and love, from bits and pieces that come to hand.

"Green Choices - Your Guide to Greener Living"

"GreenChoices is about the choices we can make in our everyday lives to protect our environment, for the benefit of all. We aim to empower you with simple, direct information on green alternatives which make a real, lasting difference."



Mountain Alder
(*Alnus incana*)
Nitrogen-rich
leaves are wonderful mulch.

GreenChoices

[⇒More⇒](#)

Garden Products, continued

--Compost and soil improvers. The really big issue here is peat. Peat bogs are a rapidly vanishing natural habitat; wetlands which support diverse wildlife, which help to stabilise groundwater, preventing droughts and flooding. Yet 94% of UK lowland bogs have been damaged or destroyed and 60% of peat compost is bought by gardeners. The good news is that you really can make a direct, immediate difference: simply buy alternatives instead - or make your own! (See tips at right)

--Check the label: if it's peat free, it'll say so.

--Look for products made from waste/ recycled material (i.e. bark or some other natural by-product).

--Some of the available products work beautifully, some don't. As with anything else, choose the one which works for you and don't be put off the whole idea by just one brand.

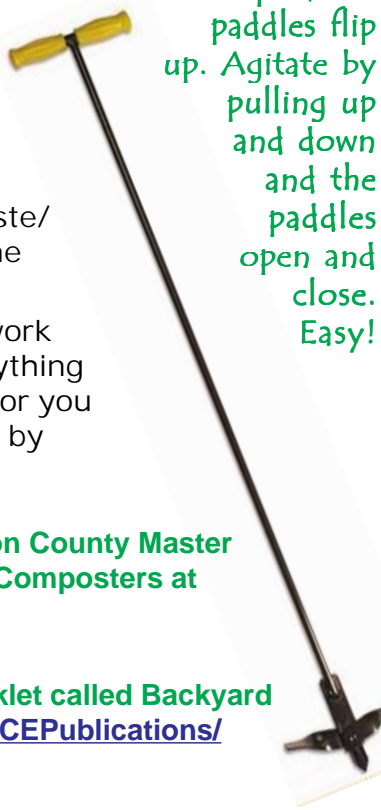
To make your composting easier, Marion County Master Recyclers Program usually sponsors "Composters at Cost." See their website for info. <http://www.co.marion.or.us/>

Washington State University has a booklet called Backyard Composting at <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1784e/eb1784e.pdf>

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
abundant white flowers and delicious fruit



Compost
turner--
Plunge into
the compost
pile, the
paddles flip
up. Agitate by
pulling up
and down
and the
paddles
open and
close.
Easy!



Compost: Make your own

Compost is the start of soil health; recycling nutrients and building soil structure, improving water retention or drainage as needed. Making compost is also a cornerstone of green gardening; it's your very own on-site, biological recycling system and an integral part of your backyard ecology. At best, it's also very cheap, and good fun.

Making good compost is an art, and it's worth getting it right. Good compost is a pleasure to make and an asset in your garden. A badly maintained compost heap, on the other hand, can be a source of methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) - and a slimy horror to deal with.

There's a lot of advice available these days, as local councils are promoting home composting for its superb ability to reduce waste at source. Advice often conflicts, so it's worth reading around to find the techniques and equipment that suit you and your situation best:

- Garden Organic website offers much advice on this topic. See <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/advice>
- The Centre for Alternative Technology has tips sheets www.cat.org.uk/
- Even a tiny back yard or a patio is easily big enough for a worm bin. See Mary Appelhof at www.wormwoman.com/
- Worm composting bins are available at www.wigglywiggers.co.uk. This is a mail order suppliers whose core business is worms and compost. They offer an almost bewildering variety of composting aids, but backed up with plenty of enthusiasm and advice.
- Composting products and information are also available from <http://www.recycleworks.co.uk/>

⇒ More ⇒

Garden Products, continued

Wood products:

- Amazing as it may seem in this day and age, fragile forest ecosystems are still being plundered to provide us with mundane consumer goods - furniture, decking, planters, bird tables, fencing and so on. Always look for the Forestry Stewardship Council label, especially when buying hardwoods. Try the FSC website, <https://us.fsc.org/> - all your favourites should be there, and most are available from national retail chains. Be wary of vague claims about “well-managed production forest”, and “from managed sources”, as these may be doing no more than cashing in on your concerns. The FSC standard is the only one endorsed by major environment charities such as WWF, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Woodland Trust.
- Wooden garden products are often tanalised - impregnated under pressure with highly toxic substances such as arsenic. Look for a pale green stain soaked into the outer layer, typically on roughly sawn softwood which otherwise wouldn't last any time at all outside in the wet. We advise against buying such products: at the very least, don't burn them! Burning releases arsenic, a cumulative poison, into your immediate atmosphere.
- You may not immediately think of barbeque charcoal as a wood product, but that's exactly what it is. Again, check for a FSC label. Or go the whole hog and look for <http://www.bioregionalhomegrown.co.uk/> helping to support UK wildlife and to make traditional British coppiced woodland viable once more.
- Barbecue lighter fuel? It may be just one more toxic product you don't need.

If you love to barbeque and don't have one those gas grills, a starter like this eliminates the need for lighter fluid. Put the briquettes or wood pieces in the top, stuff the bottom with paper and light from the bottom with a match. The lighted paper will ignite the wood without resorting to lighter fluid.

You have succeeded in life when all you really want is only what you really need. ~ Vernon Howard



Oregon's Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is one of the finest timber trees. This native is grown specifically for harvest in areas managed by the Forest Service.



⇒More⇒

Garden Products, continued



Grow a fence! This Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolia*) grows quickly, is evergreen, has bright yellow flowers and delicious fruit.

comes to containers and planters. Don't just look to the garden centres for inspiration - check out what other gardeners are getting up to, use your imagination, and have fun!

Source: Green Choices, www.greenchoices.org

From the editor: Further help and inspiration

University of Oregon's campus recycling program has good info on where and how to find products made from recycled plastics and other materials. See <http://www.uoregon.edu/~recycle/Buy.htm>

Metro Recycling and Waste Prevention has an easy to use recycled materials search engine at <http://www.metro.dst.or.us/article.cfm?articleid=2728>

The Rebuilding Center in Portland is a wonderful non-profit place to find scads of used materials. They have everything from roofs to the kitchen sink. A great place run by great folks. <http://www.rebuildingcenter.org/>

Recycling

The biggest contribution any householder can make to reducing waste is to compost! Filling skips full of green garden waste then buying in soil improvers has got to be one of the craziest habits we've got into. Kitchen scraps are an even bigger issue, because in landfill they create methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and polluting leachates. Composting at home is the best possible solution - your council may be one of the many that offer free compost bins and advice to encourage more households to get involved.

- Adding paper and cardboard to your compost heap is particularly important for stopping your compost being too wet or sour - technically speaking, it both aerates the mix and increases the carbon : nitrogen ratio. Practically speaking, it just happens to work very well and deals with yet more of your household waste.
- Look for recycled products on the internet
- Glass 'gravel' is an alternative to freshly mined rock
- Roll old newspapers into cylinders and tuck in the bottom for seed starting pots
- Fencing is readily available made from recycled plastic

Designing and running a garden gives lots of opportunities for being creative with all kinds of cast-offs, especially when it



Tumbled
glass gravel

⇒ More ⇒

Garden Products, continued

Editor's Notes:

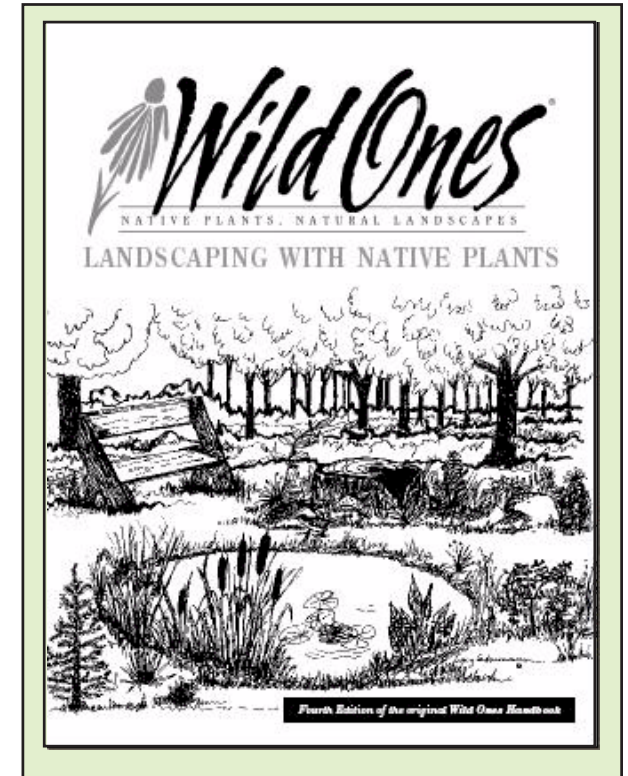
About plastic recycling--Here in the US, we are very fortunate to have facilities that recycle plastics. In Oregon, Agri-plas, a Brooks company, specializes in recycling plastics used at farms, greenhouses and plant nurseries. Their innovative approach to developing new markets in plastics (mostly in the United States) has made it possible to recycle those hard-to-recycle plastics.

Agri-plas makes chips or pellets out of the materials and then sells them to other manufacturers who make a multitude of items. Plastic Pots are mostly made back into plastic pots. Plastic bags mostly become plastic lumber. Markets come and go for various other resins of plastics. If Agri-plas doesn't have a specific market for materials they are combined as miscellaneous plastic. The miscellaneous plastics often get chipped together and mixed with recycled wood powder to become railroad ties, replacing rotting wood ties that require toxic chemicals to maintain. Railroad companies have to replace 1000's of wood ties every year. They have yet to have to replace the plastic ones.

Agri-plas is known for their exceptionally well sorted and contaminant-free plastic, making it easier for manufacturers to use. They are a part of Northwest Ag Plastics, Inc which is a group of companies in Washington, Oregon and Idaho that collects and granulates pesticide containers for the agricultural industry. Portland Master Recyclers, <http://www.masterrecycler.org/plastic-recycling.php>

Peanuts

In Salem, there is a 'cooperative dropoff system' for recycling styrofoam packing peanuts. Oregon Link, http://www.oregonlink.com/recycle/plastic_peanuts.html



USDA Forest Service Native Plant Gardening Info



The Forest Service's Celebrating Wildflowers website has some very good ideas about building a native plant garden. http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening/index.shtml

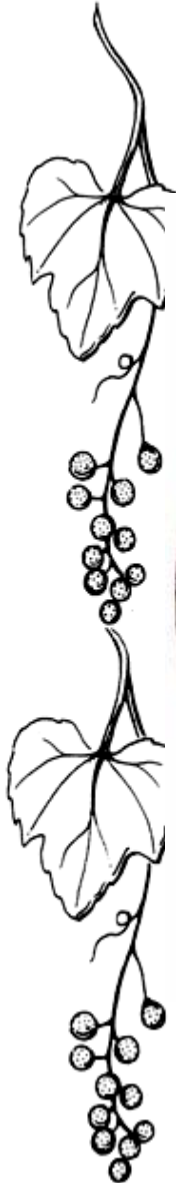
They offer several brochures you can download and/or print at no charge. The front page of their brochure, Wild Ones, is shown at right. You can download it at http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones/wo_2004b.pdf

Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *occidentalis*) Drawing by Marci Degman



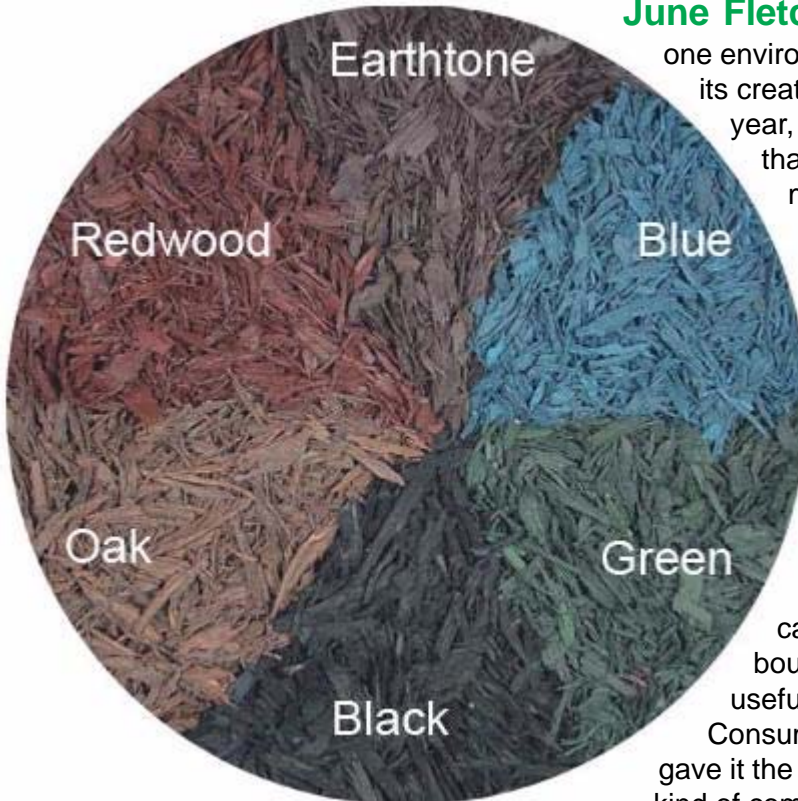
Rubber Garden Mulch--Is it Safe?

Western
Wild Grape
(*Vitis
californica*)



At a local home improvement center recently, I saw bags of garden mulch made from recycled tires. It seemed like a good idea but I wondered about the 'side effects.' It looked almost real, it would not compost or need replacing but what would it do to the earth? Here's a part of two articles that ask that very question.

June Fletcher writes for the Real Estate Journal: From at least one environmental standpoint, you've got to love rubber mulch — no trees die in its creation. Made from some of the more than 290 million tires discarded each year, the shredded stuff saves landfill space, too. One manufacturer says that 80 scrapped tires are used to create one cubic yard of shredded mulch.



Though it hardly looks real up close — indeed, many manufacturers play up its fauxness by dyeing it bright red, teal or other bold colors — and it costs more than twice as much as wood mulches, it does have good qualities. Unlike wood chips or bark, it doesn't wash away in rainstorms, attract termites or carpenter ants, or rot. Its inherent bounciness has proved especially useful in playgrounds; the U.S.

Consumer Product Safety Commission gave it the highest shock absorption ratings of any kind of common playground covering, surpassing wood chips, gravel and sand. The U.S. Special Operations Command in Virginia Beach, Va., said it plans to use rubber mulch as a ground covering under a military obstacle course.



This brown looks like wood but the green, blue and purple are obviously garden fashion statements.

Some of these rubber mulches look almost like the real thing but they're made from old tires dyed to various colors.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Rubber Garden Mulch--Is it Safe?, continued

But the mulch is controversial, with many people worried, as you are, about the material's possible harmful effects. I've seen several studies that have declared rubber mulch to be non-leaching, non-flammable and non-toxic to both plants and animals, but all were sponsored by the companies that process the mulch. A Washington State University study indicates that rubber can leach chemicals that contaminate water and hurt marine life. Rufus L. Chaney, an environmental chemist at the U.S.D.A.

Agricultural Research Service, says that his research shows that small amounts of zinc in rubber will leach into soil over time. If your soil is alkaline and starved for zinc, as many soils are in Western states, that could be a good thing. But if your soil is acidic and has an adequate amount of zinc, as is typical in the East, the zinc released by the tires could cause a chemical overload that kills shallow-rooted flowers, shrubs and vegetables. "Save rubber mulch for paths and playgrounds," he says.

Brilliant fall color--American Cranberry Bush
(*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*)



Ultra Earthtone



CAMO



Basic Black

More colors: Ultra earthtone mimics wood mulch. The camo could be fun and the black is quite dramatic.



Shreds



'Redwood'

Chips

Different textures for different uses.

Brands also differ. Steel-belted radial tires are used in many mixes, and the magnets employed to remove them don't always get all the tiny wires out. Though processors say the steel rusts in about six months, in the meantime, you could get nasty pricks from the chopped up wires while you're spreading the mulch around. So buy mixes that are at least 98% steel-free. Also, check out the warranty for any coatings used on the mulch. Black tires can oxidize over time, giving them a chalky surface; look for a mulch that has a UV-protective coating.

Source: Real Estate Journal, The Wall Street Journal Guide to Property, <http://www.realestatejournal.com/columnists/housetalk/20050930-fletcher.html>

⇒ More ⇒

Rubber Garden Mulch--Is it Safe?, continued

Excerpt from an article in the Hillsboro Argus. Marci has written several articles for the nursery and done many drawings of plants as well.

Hillsboro
Argus

Marci Degman - Gardening

Consider pros, cons of new products

Friday, February 16, 2007



MARCI DEGMAN

I am slow to fall for anything that promises too much. I remember the microwave oven. Everyone wondered about the health risks.

Now, plastic garbage bags are being recycled into plastic landscape lumber and crumbled tires are placed under play structures or used to mulch around landscape plants. The controversy humming around the recycled tire products does not surprise me. We would all like to find a way to safely dispose of rubber tires, but placing rubber on top of the soil seems a bit daring. When water runs through any material it is going to leach out. The problem at this point seems to be zinc. While it is a naturally-occurring mineral, too much can be toxic to plants. I would guess that with certain plants and enough water to dilute the excess, it might be fine in some situations. But I wouldn't chance it around anything I cared about at this point.



As for a child's play structure, that is a much more complicated issue. The good and bad of crumb rubber is that it does not decompose which means it will rarely need to be replaced. But should more problems arise, it will need to be removed and then - you guessed it - back to the landfill.

There are some decorative landscape products made from melted down glass bottles and broken tiles pressed into outdoor materials. That's a good idea since glass and tile do not harm the soil even if they are buried in it.

To choose the right landscape materials for your project you just have to consider the pros and cons. When in doubt about a new product, sometimes it is best to wait it out.

This gardener has used tumbled glass pieces as mulch beneath the Dwarf Huckleberry (Vaccinium caespitosum). It will not leach into the soil, nor will it biodegrade. However it may heat the soil too much from the sun. Good for shady spots. I love it in my birdbaths.

For fast acting relief; try slowing down. ~ Lily Tomlin



Toads in Your Garden



Swamp Lantern (*Lysichiton americanus*)
Unusual plant for your toad pond.

Toads in Your Garden: Have You Seen Any Lately?

From Linda Knox
Adams County (Pennsylvania) Master Gardener

For the last several years I have noticed few quiet, little toads hopping about devouring garden pests. In our region the spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrooki*) eats beetles, crickets, spiders and other small insects and worms. The American toad (*Bufo americanus*) can consume 86 flies in 10 minutes, several thousand insects in a month, and 2000 cutworms in a summer. Slugs and snails are on their menu as well as mayflies, midges, gnats and mosquitoes.

All amphibians like toads need wet places to maintain body moisture, since they breathe partly through their skin. When marsh or wetland areas are filled in for people to build housing developments and malls, toads and frogs experience a shortage of environment.



Toads have an amazing ability to cope with adverse conditions. In summer they burrow underground to avoid extreme heat (aestivation), and in winter they can survive several weeks with two-thirds of their bodies frozen. They thaw out and begin feeding on insects. Because of these talents to adapt, scientists disagree about methods of counting and years necessary to verify declining numbers.



Natural pond. Though not too attractive in the landscape, this is ideal for toads—lots of algae to eat, shelter for tadpoles to hide and a nice, low bank to climb out. The same elements can be created in a more attractive way for gardens.

⇒ More ⇒

Toads in Your Garden, continued



Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*)
Excellent native water plant.

Another idea for a tiny toad pond, this one has lights.



This column includes highlights of some studies obtained from the Internet. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has concluded that the disappearance of frogs and toads can indicate serious problems in the environment. Because amphibians exist in the water and on land, they are susceptible to all kinds of pollution. The Minnesota Frog Watch considers them an integral part of the food chain and coordinates a counting program while keeping records of deformities.

Scientists in California agree that pesticides and pollution may be factors in decreasing amphibian numbers and add other reasons: increasing ultra-violet radiation resulting from ozone depletion and global climate change.

No one underestimates the importance of urban sprawl but since the late 1970's herpetologists have noticed changes in populations even in remote natural habitats in South America and parts of the western United States and Canada.

A number of scientists who argued that studies need to be over longer periods now realize that some species have already become extinct. The trend is unmistakable. Even in relatively unspoiled areas frogs and toads appear to be declining.



Easy toad pond: A couple of pots and some rocks=simple and attractive.



American Toad (*Bufo americanus*)
Photo by Rob J at The City Birder

⇒ More ⇒

Toads in Your Garden, continued



Last year the Gettysburg Times (July 4, 2000) carried a story from the Greensburg Tribune-Review titled "Scientists and Volunteers Count Frogs." In it Robb Frederick states that fear of some frog extinctions had surfaced in a herpetology conference in England in 1989.

The North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, coordinated by Linda Weir of Maryland, began their field surveys in 1995 and now has volunteers in 28 states. Weir relies on state directors like Art Hulse, biology professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania to recruit and train volunteers.

While scientists claim there is no real distinction (both are amphibians), I refer to the toad as invaluable warriors against plant pests in the garden. All are vulnerable to chemical fertilizers, pesticides, ozone depletion, and problems brought about by urban sprawl.

Unfortunately, whatever the cause of the scarcity, I suspect many gardeners are looking for their quiet little helpers.

Many thanks to the Adams County Pennsylvania Master Gardeners and Linda Knox for this excellent article.



My, how tiny! The little bitty toad at top is just climbing out of the pond. One just about that size sits in the palm of the woman's hand in the middle photo. Compare this little one to the quarter to get the proper perspective. Tiny!

A single cattail plant will give even the smallest toad pond just the greenery it needs. Pretty, too.

How Green are You?



English ivy--dangerously invasive, will eventually kill this Doug Fir if not removed.

Big-Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) provides shade in the summer but its bare branches allow early spring sun to reach the ground below. Underplant with Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) or other NW Natives.



GREEN NOTE:
Use the right plant in the right place.

Replace invasive plants such as English ivy, Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry with native plants.

The system of nature, of which man is a part, tends to be self-balancing, self-adjusting, self-cleansing. Not so with technology. ~ E.F. Schumacher, Small is Beautiful, 1973

⇒ More ⇒

How Green are You?, continued



GREEN NOTE:
Use less,
grow some of your
own food organically,
reduce and re-use
before you
recycle.

GREEN NOTE: Children
must not
be exposed to second-
hand smoke.

It is not
an option.

GREEN NOTE: Take
shopping bags with you
instead of using the
store's bags. Make bags
from old jeans or other
heavy fabrics or buy at
tag sales or
second-hand
stores.

GREEN NOTE:
Another choice--
instead of a lawn,
just get rid of it
and plant
natives!



A beautiful
day in our
neighborhood!

GREEN NOTE: Save energy
with good computer habits.
Turn off your monitor
when not in use. Shut
down your computer
or hibernate at the
end of the day.

GREEN NOTE:
There is an ecologi-
cally sound alterna-
tive to ALL garden
chemicals including
those for lawns.

GREEN NOTE: Good
management of
hazardous wastes
protects us all. Hum-
mingbirds disappear
when poisons run
free.

GREEN NOTE: An-
other choice--try
good bugs and toads
and birds, nature's
pest patrol!

Recycling Questionnaire

1. How do you recycle garden waste?



2. How can recycling like this benefit the environment?



3. What kind of household items are you able to recycle?



4. Where in your local area are you able to recycle goods?



5. What are the benefits of recycling for the environment?



6. On average how much waste is produced in the home each year?



7. How much of this could be recycled?



8. What is the alternative to throwing old clothes in the bin?



9. Who is responsible for refuse disposal?



10. How can your community aid recycling in the area?



[Print this page and ask your neighbors, friends and family to answer the questions!](#)

In an underdeveloped country, don't drink the water; in a developed country, don't breathe the air. ~Changing Times magazine



Special Section: Earth Day

We begin our Earth Day special section with a poem by one of the men who started this annual observance we call "Earth Day."



Children of the world hoist the Earth Day Flag

HOIST THE SAILS!

By John McConnell

The sails are down, the ship
becalmed,
Its fragil life at stake.
No longer do we ride the gentle
swells of
Silent seas and breathe
The fragrant air.

Broken are the rhythms
Of our cyclic plants
And other living things.

But now the Captain speaks again
Our quiet thoughts at last reveal his
voice.

"Hoist the sails, Earth Man.
Set them for celestial winds.
Hold the tiler firm,
The course ahead is clear."

Be He nature, God or chance
His voice is heard
And we shall heed
The Captain's quiet command.

Four billion years ago
Our lonely Earth
Set sail on cosmic seas
Guided by an unseen hand
Of nature, God or chance.

As life evolved
Through endless eco-cycles
Man was born, destined
To destroy or enrich
the Precious Ship.

And now his hand
Has seized the tiller
But his ear has not
Yet caught the Captain's
Quiet command.



⇒ More ⇒

Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana* var *garryana*)

Special Section: Earth Day

Earth Day?

What is it?

Earth Day is a name used by two different observances held annually in the (northern) spring, both intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth's environment. Every part of our lives has an ecological aspect, from our food, clothing and shelter to our hobbies and activities. How we conduct our everyday goings and comings has an impact on the earth.

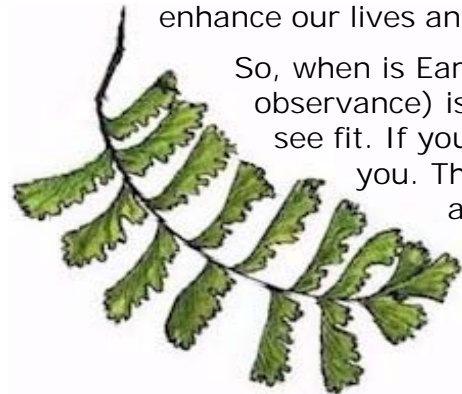
How did it start?

The Earth's environment began to show obvious signs of distress and by the late 1960's it was apparent we were heading for trouble unless some definitive action was taken. Two great men stepped to the fore to lead the world population in salvaging what we could and taking preventive measures to put our spaceship Earth back on track. These two leaders were John McConnell and Gaylord Nelson. Each in their own way began a movement to save our planet.

When is it?

- One Earth Day is held at the spring equinox.
- One Earth Day is held on April 22.

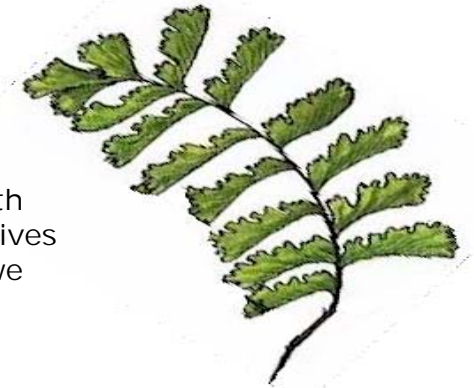
Some grassroots Earth Day organizers seek to move the date of the observance to the summer solstice, to take advantage of the warm temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere (where most people live) to create greater participation. But for now, we have two official dates to observe this unique and very important day. Think of it as two opportunities to enhance our lives and enrich our planet.



So, when is Earth Day? Today and every day. Earth Day (the official observance) is in the public domain and open to all persons to shape as they see fit. If you prefer to celebrate at the equinox, please do so. If you prefer an April Earth Day, blessings upon you. The goal of both is the same: to remind us all of our stewardship of our planet. Celebrate Earth Day and Earth Year and Earth Decade and Earth Century--just do it.

Let us be good stewards of the Earth we inherited. All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them. If we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it. ~ Kofi Annan

At right and below:
Lady Fern (*Athyrium
filix-femina* var.
cyclosorum)

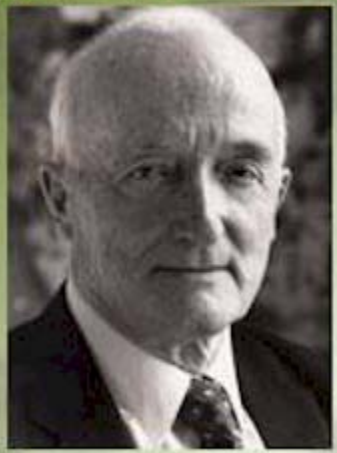


GREEN NOTE:
Celebrate Earth Day
in your garden!
Plant a tree, touch
a leaf, smell a
flower!

⇒More⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

Earth Day--How did it start? Here are the two stories.



John McConnell

The Equinoctial Earth Day

International Earth Day, March 20, 2007 at 7:07 PM EST (Eastern Standard Time) or 12:07 UTC March 21 (Greenwich, England) <http://www.earthsite.org/>

"May there only be peaceful and cheerful Earth Days to come for our beautiful Spaceship Earth as it continues to spin and circle in frigid space with its warm and fragile cargo of animate life."

—United Nations Secretary-General U Thant, March 21, 1971.

The equinoctial Earth Day (or International Earth Day) is celebrated on the vernal equinox to mark the precise moment that spring begins in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. Night and day are in equal length anywhere on Earth. A perfectly vertical pole standing on the equator at noon during equinox will not cast a shadow. At the South Pole, the sun sets and ends a six-month-long day while at the North Pole, the sun rises and hence ending six months of continuous darkness.

United Nations celebrates *Earth Day* each year on the vernal equinox (around March 21). On February 26, 1971, UN Secretary-General U Thant signed a proclamation to that effect. At the moment of the equinox, it is traditional to observe the day by ringing the Japanese Peace Bell, a bell donated by Japan to the United Nations.



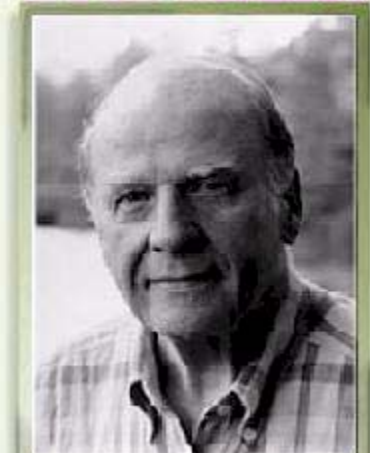
◀ California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) ◆ Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana* var. *garryana*) ▶

⇒ Continued on next page ⇒

The April 22 Earth Day

Earth Day for Everybody, April 22, 2007, <http://www.earthday.net/> or <http://www.earthday.gov/> Portal for U.S. Government Events & Information

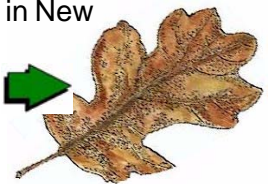
In January 1970, the Environmental Teach-in decided to call their one-off event held on April 22, Earth Day. The day's success led to it becoming a regular event.



Gaylord Nelson

Senator Gaylord Nelson, an environmental activist in the U.S. Senate, took a leading role in organizing the celebration, to demonstrate popular political support for an environmental agenda. He modeled it on the highly effective Vietnam War protests of the time. Senator Nelson staffed the office with college students and selected Denis Hayes (a Harvard student and Stanford graduate) as the National Coordinator of activities.

It was the era of student political activism and outdoor protests that attracted news cameras. The nationwide event included opposition to the Vietnam War on the agenda. Pete Seeger was a keynote speaker and performer at the event held in Washington DC. Paul Newman and Ali McGraw attended the event held in New York City.



⇒ Continued on page 31 ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

The Equinoctial Earth Day.....

John McConnell first introduced the idea of a global holiday called *Earth Day* at a UNESCO Conference on the Environment in 1969, the same year that he designed the Earth flag. The first *Earth Day* proclamation was issued by San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto on March 21, 1970. U Thant supported John McConnell's global initiative to celebrate this annual spring equinox event. Secretary General Waldheim observed Earth Day with similar ceremonies in 1972. The United Nations Earth Day ceremony continued each year on the day of the March equinox (20th or 21st), with the ringing of the U.N. Peace Bell at the very moment of the equinox. In 1975 the U.S. Congress and President Gerald Ford proclaimed and urged observance of Earth Day on the March equinox.

"The earth will continue to regenerate its life sources only as long as we and all the peoples of the world do our part to conserve its natural resources. It is a responsibility which every human being shares. Through voluntary action, each of us can join in building a productive land in harmony with nature." *President Gerald Ford Proclaiming March 21 as Earth Day*

PROCLAMATION

As inhabitants of this Earth - Earthians, we need a day to celebrate our global unity and destiny.

The observance of EARTH DAY will alert concern and interest for our planet — with its precious treasure of living things.

EARTH DAY is to remind each person of his right and the equal right of each person to the use of this global home and at the same time the equal responsibility of each person to preserve and improve the Earth and the quality of life thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph L. Alioto, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby proclaim March 21st (Vernal Equinox) to be designated EARTH DAY — a special day to remember Earth's tender seedlings of life and people; a day for planting trees and flowers; a day for cleaning streams and wooded glens: that on EARTH DAY the EARTH FLAG which portrays in its center our "Beautiful Blue Planet", be flown to encourage mutual respect for Earth and all its people.

On this day 1900 to 2000 Universal Time (11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon PST) be designated EARTH HOUR - a Silent Hour For Peace; and do invite all citizens throughout the community to join in observing EARTH DAY and EARTH HOUR in every way they may deem appropriate.

San Francisco Mayor Alioto's proclamation

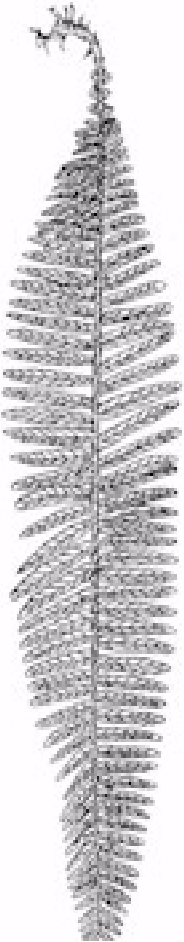


Sword Fern
(*Polystichum munitum*)

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The Equinoctial Earth Day.....



Deer Fern
(*Blechnum
spicant*)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed this eleventh day of February, nineteen hundred and seventy.

Joseph L. Alioto, Mayor

EARTH DAY / EARTH TRUSTEES

MAKE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AN EARTH CARE CENTRE

For Earth Care

Move thoughtfully and protect the web of life that surrounds our globe and is our Life-Support system.

Know that the air and water that circulates around the planet circulates through us.

Check your job out and see if it aids life more than it destroys.

Study advertisements and reject products that waste or pollute.

Share cars, newspapers, whatever you can.

Recycle paper, metals, glass, plastics.

Repair and give away what you no longer need.

Love a little.

Conserve, insulate your home, build for good ventilation.

Use your hands.

Learn how a person treats the Earth before you vote for him or her.

Rejoice in human energy.

Use your legs.

Grow some of your own food.

Inherit the Earth, it belongs to each of us. Its health, wealth, beauty is our health, wealth, beauty.

San Francisco Mayor Alioto's proclamation

[⇒More⇒](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The Equinoctial Earth Day.....



Carmen Colombo and John McConnell in New York on Earth Day 1999, March 20

John McConnell, founder of International Earth Day (www.earthsite.org) and Carmen Colombo, founder of WOW Zone (Wish Only Well) www.wowzone.com have agreed to combine their efforts. The combination of WOW (Wish Only Well) thinking and Earth Trustee action can defeat the hate, fear and violence that threatens civilization.

Every year the Peace Bell is rung at the United Nations New York Headquarters and around the world at the precise moment of the spring equinox - March 20 or 21.

Earth Day is considered the most significant day of the year, when people of all cultures, ages, and creeds unite for a common cause: the care of our planet.

Coastal Shield Fern
(*Dryopteris arguta*)

This is The Peace Bell. It was presented to the United Nations in June 1954 by the United Nations Association of Japan. It was cast from coins collected by people from 60 different countries including children, and is housed in a typically Japanese structure, resembling a Shinto shrine, made of cypress wood. Besides being rung at the spring equinox, it is rung on 21 September to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. In 2002, the General Assembly set 21 September as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

When some high-sounding institute states that a compound is harmless or a process free of risk, it is wise to know whence the institute or the scientists who work there obtain their financial support. ~Lancet, editorial on the "medical-industrial complex," 1973

[⇒ More ⇒](#)



Special Section: Earth Day

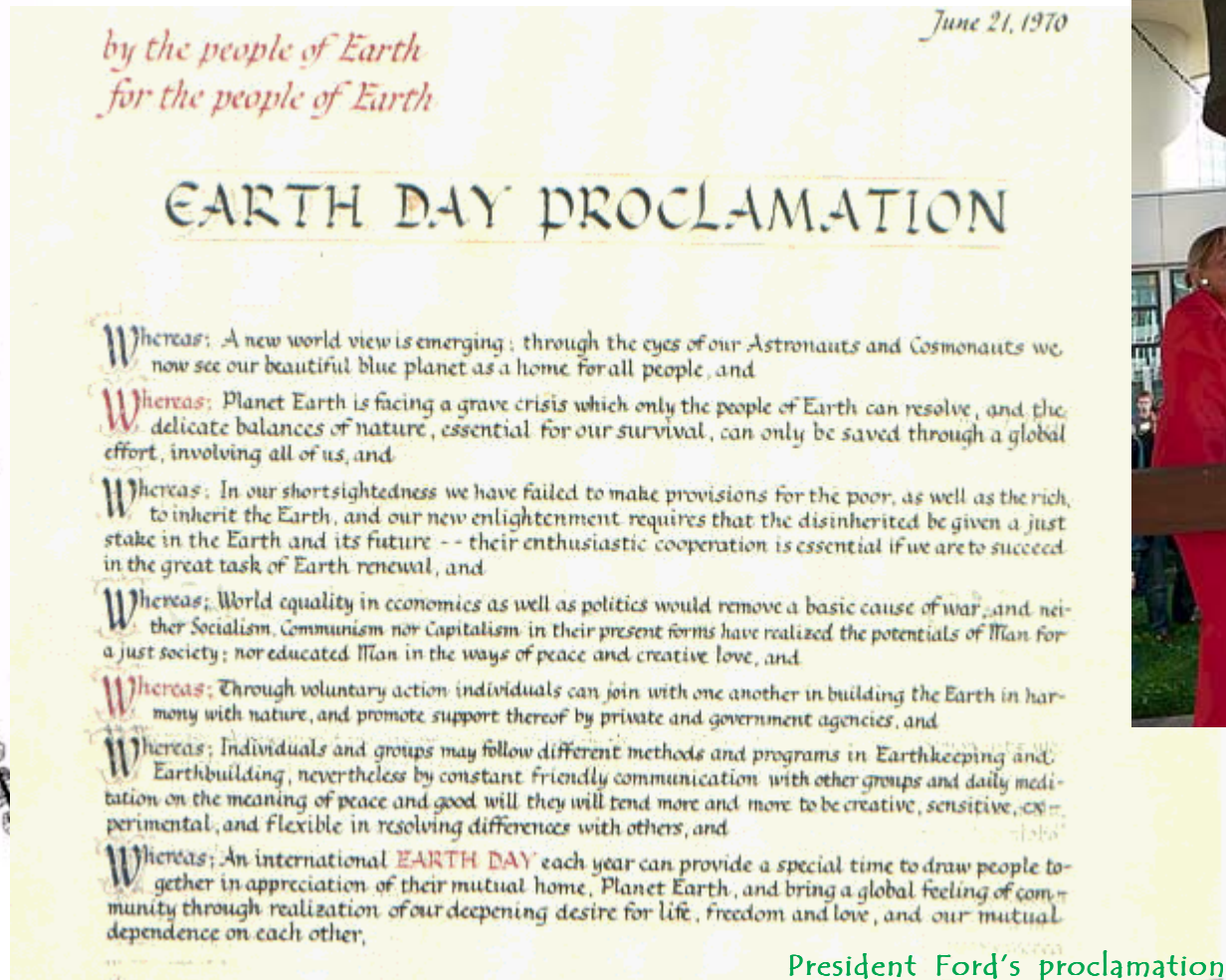
The Equinoctial Earth Day.....



Deer Fern
(*Blechnum
spicant*)

Earth Day Proclamation

Written by John McConnell, Founder of International Earth Day, it is at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, N.Y., USA.



President Ford's proclamation

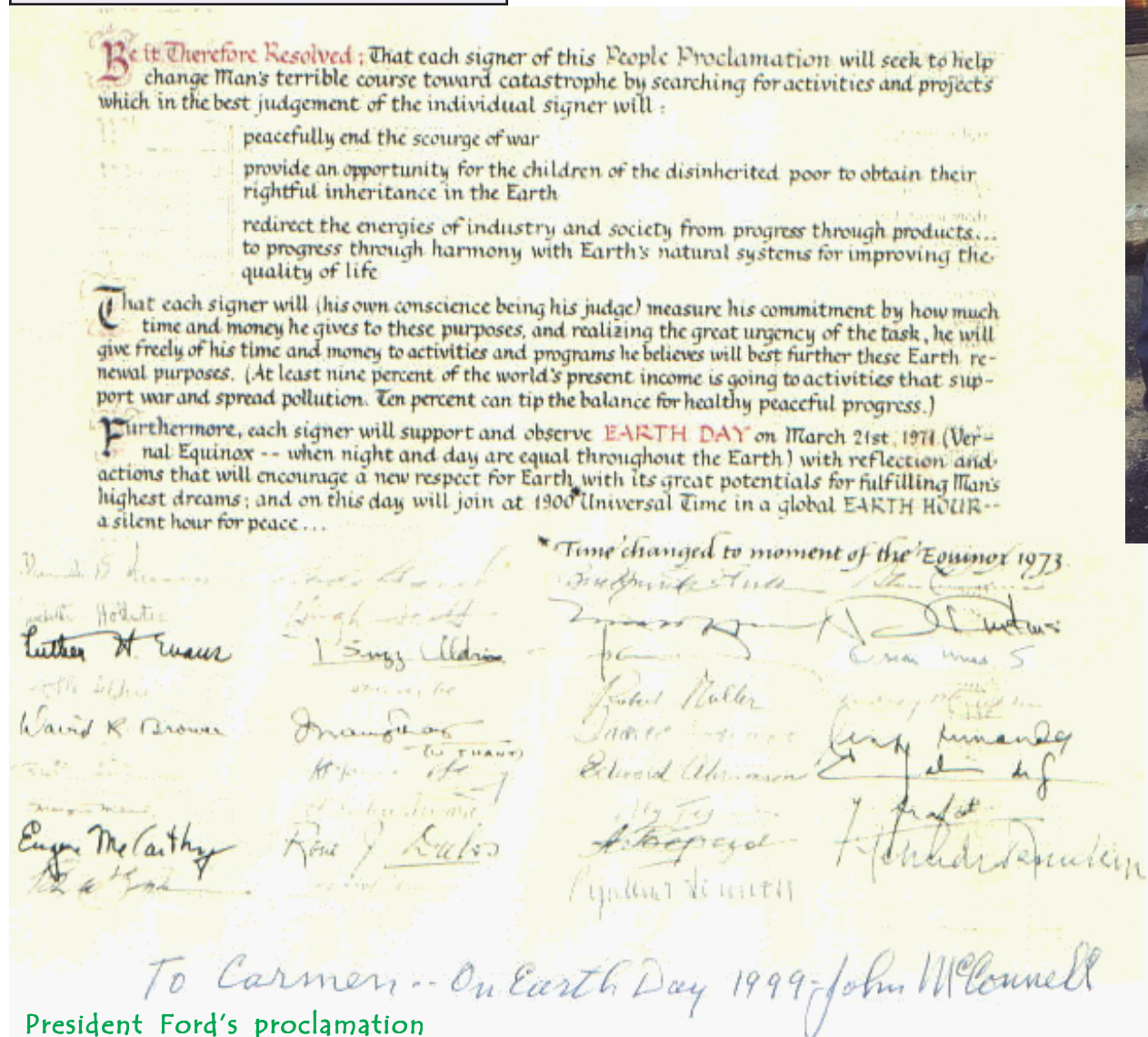


Ring the Peace Bell

[➡ More ➡](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The Equinoctial Earth Day.....



John McConnell

Lady Fern
(*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclosorum*)



[➔More➔](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The Equinoctial Earth Day.....

Original Signers of President Ford's Proclamation, 1970 - 71, and some signers 1990 - 2000

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Alexander B. Grannis New York Assembly | 13. S. O. Adebo (Nigeria) President of UN Assembly | 25. Aly Teymour (Egypt) Chief of Protocol, United Nations |
| 2. Judith Hollister The Temple of Understanding | 14. U Thant (Ceylon) United Nations Secretary General | 26. Anatoly N. Berezovoi (Russia) Cosmonaut |
| 3. Luther Evans Former Director General of UNESCO | 15. Maurice Strong (Canada) UN Environmental Programme | 27. Cynthia Lennon (United Kingdom) Artist |
| 4. Estelle Feldman (Ireland) 1970 World Youth Assembly | 16. Y. Fukushima (Japan) Environmental Scientist | 28. Stan Lundine Lieutenant Governor, New York |
| 5. David R. Brower Friends of the Earth | 17. Rene J. Dubois Environmental Scientist | 29. David Dinkins Mayor of New York City |
| 6. Arvid Pardo Ambassador, UN Mission to Malta | 18. Lubos Kohoutek (Czechoslovakia) Astronomer | 30. Oscar Arias President of Costa Rico |
| 7. Margaret Mead Anthropologist | 19. Buckminster Fuller Inventor, Scientist, Scholar | 31. Audrey McLaughlin Leader, NDP, Canada |
| 8. Eugene McCarthy US Senator from Minnesota | 20. Mark Hatfield U.S. Senator from Oregon | 32. George Fernandes Minister of Transportation, India |
| 9. John Gardner Common Cause | 21. John Denver Singer | 33. Carlos Salinas President of Mexico |
| 10. Mike Gravel US Senator from Alaska | 22. Robert Muller (France) Assistant Secretary General, United Nations | 34. Yasir Arafat President of Palestine |
| 11. Hugh Scott US Senator from Pennsylvania | 23. Edward Abramson Chairman, Earth Day 1990 | 35. Yehudi Menuhin Musician, Violinist |
| 12. Buzz Aldrin American Astronaut | 24. Isaac Asimov Writer | 36. Mikhail Gorbachev President, Russia |

Lady Fern (Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum) In the background



Special Section: Earth Day

The April 22 Earth Day.....



All About Earth Day

Earth Day, Everyday

**By Senator Gaylord Nelson,
Founder of Earth Day**

Vine Maple
(*Acer
circinatum*)



Note: Earth Day Founder Gaylord Nelson passed away July 2005 at the age of 89. He believed strongly that education is the key to changing people's attitudes about the environment and he devoted much of his energy to that challenge. In the section below, which he prepared not long before his death, he answered some of the questions he was most often asked about the how he conceived the first Earth Day, why and what his hopes for the observance were.

What was the purpose of Earth Day? How did it start? These are the questions I am most frequently asked.



Actually, the idea for Earth Day evolved over a period of seven years starting in 1962. For several years, it had been troubling me that the state of our environment was simply a non-issue in the politics of the country. Finally, in November 1962, an idea occurred to me that was, I thought, a virtual cinch to put the environment into the political "limelight" once and for all. The idea was to persuade President Kennedy to give visibility to this issue by going on a national conservation tour. I flew to Washington to discuss the proposal with Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who liked the idea. So did the President. The President began his five-day, eleven-state conservation tour in September 1963. For many reasons the tour did not succeed in putting the issue onto the national political agenda. However, it was the germ of the idea that ultimately flowered into Earth Day.

I continued to speak on environmental issues to a variety of audiences in some twenty-five states. All across the country, evidence of environmental degradation was appearing everywhere, and everyone noticed except the political establishment. The environmental issue simply was not to be found on the nation's political agenda. The people were concerned, but the politicians were not.

After President Kennedy's tour, I still hoped for some idea that would thrust the environment into the political mainstream. Six years would pass before the idea that became Earth Day occurred to me while on a conservation speaking tour out West in the summer of 1969. At the time, anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, called "teach-ins," had spread to college campuses all across the nation. Suddenly, the idea occurred to me - why not organize a huge grassroots protest over what was happening to our environment?

I was satisfied that if we could tap into the environmental concerns of the general public and infuse the student anti-war energy into the environmental cause, we could generate a demonstration that would force this issue onto the political agenda. It was a big gamble, but worth a try.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The April 22 Earth Day.....

At a conference in Seattle in September 1969, I announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment and invited everyone to participate. The wire services carried the story from coast to coast. The response was electric. It took off like gangbusters. Telegrams, letters, and telephone inquiries poured in from all across the country. The American people finally had a forum to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air - and they did so with spectacular exuberance. For the next four months, two members of my Senate staff, Linda Billings and John Heritage, managed Earth Day affairs out of my Senate office.

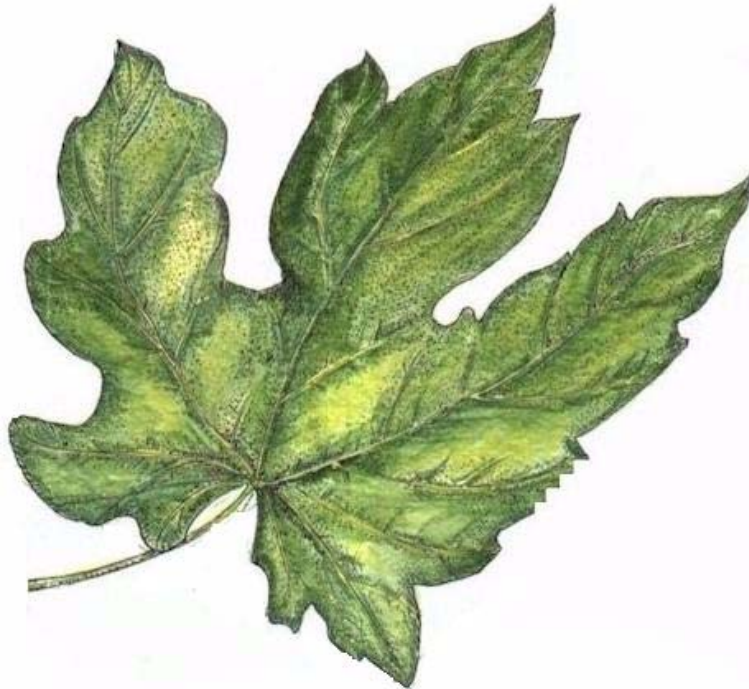
Five months before Earth Day, on Sunday, November 30, 1969, The New York Times carried a lengthy article by Gladwin Hill reporting on the astonishing proliferation of environmental events:



"Rising concern about the environmental crisis is sweeping the nation's campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war in Vietnam...a national day of observance of environmental problems...is being planned for next spring...when a nationwide environmental 'teach-in'...coordinated from the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson is planned...."

It was obvious that we were headed for a spectacular success on Earth Day. It was also obvious that grassroots activities had ballooned beyond the capacity of my U.S. Senate office staff to keep up with the telephone calls, paper work, inquiries, etc. In mid-January, three months before Earth Day, John Gardner, Founder of Common Cause, provided temporary space for a Washington, D.C. headquarters. I staffed the office with college students and selected Denis Hayes as coordinator of activities.

Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. We had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself.



Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)

[➔ More ➔](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The April 22 Earth Day.....

According to Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council:

“The story goes that Earth Day was conceived by Senator Gaylord Nelson after a trip he took to Santa Barbara right after that horrific oil spill off our coast in 1969. He was so outraged by what he saw that he went back to Washington and passed a bill designating April 22 as a national day to celebrate the earth.”

Senator Nelson stated that Earth Day “worked” because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. Though he felt his committee had neither the time nor resources to organize the 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated, these things did happen. According to the Senator, “It organized itself.”

The “holiday” proved extremely popular in the United States. The first Earth Day, in 1970, had participants and celebrants in two thousand colleges and universities, roughly ten thousand primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. More importantly, it “brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform.”

Senator Nelson directly credited the first Earth Day with persuading U.S. politicians that environmental legislation had a substantial, lasting constituency. Many important laws were passed by the Congress in the wake of the 1970 Earth Day, including the Clean Air Act, laws to protect drinking water, wild lands and the ocean. The EPA was created within three years of the first Earth Day. In 1971 Senator Gaylord Nelson announced an ‘Earth Week’ — for the third week of April — as a yearly event.

Earth Day is a time to celebrate gains we have made and create new visions to accelerate environmental progress. Earth Day is a time to unite around new actions. Earth Day and every day is a time to act to protect our planet.

On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. It was a time when cities were buried under their own smog and polluted rivers caught fire. Now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe. We’ve made remarkable progress since then in protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment. Through the combined efforts of the U.S. government, grassroots organizations, and citizens like you, what started as a day of national environmental recognition has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment.

Oregon Myrtle
(*Umbellularia californica*)



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The April 22 Earth Day.....



Western
Hemlock
(*Tsuga
heterophylla*)

Proclamation 6085 - Earth Day, 1990

January 3rd, 1990.

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

The world's natural resources sustain not only the economic and social development of nations, but the entire spectrum of life on Earth. In our natural surroundings, we find breathtaking beauty and order — reflections of the magnificent designs of our Creator. Environmental problems, on the other hand, reveal the tragic consequences of our failure to cherish and protect these wonderful gifts.

Twenty years ago, on January 1, 1970, then-President Nixon signed the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 into law. This legislation signalled our Nation's growing concern about the state of the environment and set forth important Federal policy goals. Today, another decade is unfolding before us — the third since America's strengthened commitment to protecting our natural resources. As we enter the 1990s, it is fitting that we pause once again to assess the state of our environment.

Tremendous progress has been made during the past 20 years in addressing environmental problems, yet great challenges remain. Many scientists are concerned that a buildup of certain gases in the atmosphere may cause significant climate changes with serious, widespread consequences, and there is growing evidence that the stratospheric ozone layer is gradually being depleted. Problems such as acid rain, deforestation, ocean pollution, and the improper disposal of toxic wastes also pose threats to the health of our planet. That is why, as we welcome the promise of a new decade, we must strengthen and renew our commitment to environmental protection.

While some of the challenges before us have changed, our responsibilities are the same today as those recognized 20 years ago. As a nation, we must acknowledge that our environment and economy are interdependent. We must also go beyond the traditional regulatory role of government and continue to seek solutions that embrace all sectors of society in preventing pollution and ecological damage before they occur.

President Bush's proclamation

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The April 22 Earth Day.....

The first Earth Day helped increase dramatically public awareness of ecological issues. Across the country, millions of people rallied to express their concerns about pollution and to learn how they could help clean up and protect the environment. Thanks to the educational programs and volunteer programs established since then, many Americans now are more faithful stewards of our precious natural resources.

Today the United States is a leader in environmental protection. We have made important progress toward improving air quality through enforcement of the Clean Air Act, the phasing out of leaded gasoline, and more stringent fuel efficiency standards for automobiles. We have expanded our parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas. We have made major advances in protecting our lakes, rivers, and streams; and we have begun to clean up once-neglected toxic waste sites. The United States has also been a leader in the worldwide effort to study and address global climate change. Through our participation in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we are working to promote environmental safeguards not only at home but also abroad.

Today we vow to press on with this vital work. On the day he signed the National Environmental Policy Act, President Nixon said the 1970s “must be the years when America pays its debt to the past by reclaiming the purity of its air, its waters, and our living environment.” Today I say the 1990s must be the years when we not only pay our debt to the past, but also fulfill our obligation to protect this earthly home for generations yet unborn.

To heighten public awareness of the need for active participation in the protection of the environment and to promote the formation of an international alliance that responds to global environmental concerns, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 159, has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Sunday, April 22, 1990, as Earth Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities designed to promote greater understanding of ecological issues. I also ask the American people to rededicate themselves — in their practices as consumers and citizens — to protecting the environment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH



Cedar



President Bush's proclamation

[⇒More⇒](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The April 22 Earth Day.....

The Spirit of the First Earth Day by Jack Lewis

[EPA Journal - January/February 1990]

In the waning months of the 1960s, environmental problems were proliferating like a many-headed hydra, a monster no one could understand let alone tame or slay. Rampant air pollution was linked to disease and death in New York, Los Angeles, and elsewhere as noxious fumes, spewed out by cars and factories, made city life less and less bearable. In the wake of Rachel Carson's 1962 best-seller, *Silent Spring*, there was widespread concern over large-scale use of pesticides, often near densely populated communities. In addition, huge fish kills were reported on the Great Lakes, and the media carried the news that Lake Erie, one of America's largest bodies of fresh water, was in its death throes. Ohio had another jolt when Cleveland's Cuyahoga River, an artery inundated with oil and toxic chemicals, burst into flames by spontaneous combustion.

In a response commensurate with the problem, an estimated 20 million Americans gathered together on April 22, 1970, to participate in a spectacularly well-publicized environmental demonstration known as "Earth Day." The rallies, teach-ins, speeches, and publicity gambits almost all went smoothly, amid a heady and triumphant atmosphere that was further enhanced by perfect spring weather. But the months leading up to Earth Day had been frantic, and the success of the event had been unpredictable up to the very last moment.

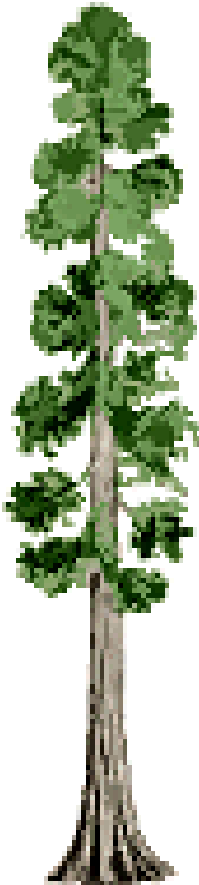
See the rest of this article at <http://www.epa.gov/history/topics/earthday/01.htm>

You go into a community and they will vote 80 percent to 20 percent in favor of a tougher Clean Air Act, but if you ask them to devote 20 minutes a year to having their car emissions inspected, they will vote 80 to 20 against it. We are a long way in this country from taking individual responsibility for the environmental problem. ~William D. Ruckelshaus, former EPA administrator, New York Times, 30 November 1988

Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)



Gaylord Nelson



➔More➔

Special Section: Earth Day

The April 22 Earth Day.....

Though Senator Nelson is now gone, before he died he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor. Established by Executive Order 11085 in 1963, the Medal may be awarded by the President "to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to (1) the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors."

A few of the other recipients of this prestigious award are:



Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Buckminster Fuller | Helen Hayes |
| T.S. Eliot | Van Cliburn |
| Louis L'Amour | Ansel Adams |
| Carl Sandberg | Walter Cronkite |
| Jonas Salk | Bill Cosby |
| Jacques-Yves Cousteau | Helen Keller |
| Rachel Carson | Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| Normal Rockwell | Ronald Reagan |
| Georgia O'Keefe | Mother Teresa |
| Gene Kelly | Joe DiMaggio |



Garry Oak
(*Quercus
garryana*)

Loyd: "It has to do with keeping things in balance. It's like the spirits have made a deal with us. We're on our own. The spirits have been good enough to let us live here and use the utilities, and we're saying: We know how nice you're being. We appreciate the rain, we appreciate the sun, we appreciate the deer we took. Sorry if we messed up anything. You've gone to a lot of trouble, and we'll try to be good guests."

Codi: "Like a note you'd send somebody after you'd stayed in their house?"

Loyd: "Exactly like that. 'Thanks for letting me sleep on your couch. I took some beer out of the refrigerator, and I broke a coffee cup. Sorry, I hope it wasn't your favorite one.'"

~Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal Dreams*

[⇒More⇒](#)

Special Section: Earth Day

The April 22 Earth Day.....



The Presidential Medal
of Freedom

THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM "The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest honor given to civilians in the United States...Twenty-five years ago this year, Americans came together for the very first Earth Day...They came together...because of one American - Gaylord Nelson. As the father of Earth Day...He inspired us to remember that the stewardship of our natural resources is the stewardship of the American Dream. He is the worthy heir of the tradition of Theodore Roosevelt...And I hope that Gaylord Nelson's shining example will illuminate all the debates in this city for years to come."President Bill Clinton, 9/29/95

Senator Nelson's many achievements include legislation to:

- Preserve the 2,000-mile Appalachian Trail
- Mandate fuel efficiency standards in automobiles
- Control strip mining
- Ban the use of DDT
- Ban the use of 245T (agent orange)
- Create the St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Senator Nelson also co-sponsored the National Environmental Education Act and wrote legislation to create the the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission and Operation Mainstream/Green Thumb, which employed the elderly in conservation projects. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including two from the United Nations Environment Programme.

Gaylord Nelson became Counselor of The Wilderness Society in January, 1981. In his 14 years at The Wilderness Society, Nelson focused his efforts on protecting America's national forests, national parks, and other public lands. Until his death he concentrated on U.S. population issues and sustainability. He remained actively involved in Earth Day affairs and served as Chairman of Earth Day XXV, which was celebrated April 22, 1995. He was the Founder of Earth Day Network's Earth Day 2000 Clean Energy Now! campaign.



Coast redwood

Coast Redwood
(*Sequoia sempervirens*)



Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report.

What you can do

At Home

What and where can I recycle?

Reducing consumption, reusing items, and recycling products and materials help to protect the environment. EPA offers you information on which products you can recycle, which help prevent waste and reduce consumption; and ways to reuse dozens of items.

For more information:

- EPA's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Web site <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>
- Recycle City Web Site www.epa.gov/recyclecity/ - helps you learn about and explore how residents in this make-believe city are protecting their environment.

How can I care for my lawn and yard?

Mowing the lawn and taking care of your yard often produce large amounts of waste. By reducing waste, recycling your grass clippings, mulching, and composting, you can improve your lawn and garden, and protect your corner of the planet.

For more information:

- "Greenscaping Your Lawn and Garden" <http://www.epa.gov/osw/education/pdfs/home-gs.pdf>

GREEN NOTE:
Another choice--
instead of a lawn,
just get rid of it
and plant
natives!

Garry Oak
(*Quercus garryana*
var. *garryana*)



⇒ More ⇒

Earth Day--how's it working?

In the 70's

- 1970** Twenty million people celebrate the first Earth Day.
- 1970** President Richard Nixon creates EPA with a mission to protect the environment and public health.
- 1970** Congress amends the Clean Air Act to set national air quality, auto emission, and anti-pollution standards.
- 1971** Congress restricts use of lead-based paint in residences and on cribs and toys.
- 1972** EPA bans DDT, a cancer-causing pesticide, and requires extensive review of all pesticides.



In 1996, the bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list, reflecting its recovery since the 1972 DDT ban.

- 1972** The United States and Canada agree to clean up the Great Lakes, which contain 95 percent of America's fresh water and supply drinking water for 25 million people.
- 1972** Congress passes the Clean Water Act, limiting raw sewage and other pollutants flowing into rivers, lakes, and streams.

⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

How do I use pesticides safely?



Here's how you can find out about pest control in a variety of settings (household, garden, school) using integrated pest management techniques.

For more information:

· [Pest Control www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/index.htm)

GREEN NOTE:
Another choice--
try good bugs and
toads and birds,
nature's pest pa-
trol!

How can I make my home more energy efficient?

Energy efficient choices can save families about a third on their home energy bills with similar savings of greenhouse gases without sacrificing style or comfort.

For more information:

· ENERGY STAR www.energystar.gov/



How clean is the electricity I use?

Electricity is generated in many different ways. Now you have a choice in choosing the source of your power and how it is generated by using EPA's Power Profiler.

For more information:

· EPA's Power Profiler: See how clean your power can be http://oaspub.epa.gov/powpro/ept_pack.charts



Western Crabapple
(*Malus fusca*)



⇒ More ⇒

EPA's progress report, cont'd.

In 1972, only 36 percent of the nation's assessed stream miles were safe for uses such as fishing and swimming: today, about 60 percent are safe for such uses.

1973 EPA begins phasing out leaded gasoline.

1973 OPEC oil embargo triggers energy crisis, stimulating conservation and research on alternative energy sources.

1973 EPA issues its first permit limiting a factory's polluted discharges into waterways.

1974 Congress passes the Safe Drinking Water Act, allowing EPA to regulate the quality of public drinking water.

1975 Congress establishes fuel economy standards and sets tail-pipe emission standards for cars, resulting in the introduction of catalytic converters.

1976 Congress passes the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, regulating hazardous waste from its production to its disposal.

1976 President Gerald Ford signs the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce environmental and human health risks.

1976 EPA begins phase-out of cancer-causing PCB production and use.

1977 President Jimmy Carter signs the Clean Air Act Amendments to strengthen air quality standards and protect human health.



⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report, cont'd.

How can I support cleaner electricity generation?

Green power offers users an option to support newer technologies that capture renewable energy sources to create electricity.



For more information:

- Visit EPA's Green Power Locator to find out about green power options in your area www.epa.gov/greenpower/locator/index.htm

How do I reduce and dispose of household hazardous wastes?

Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste per year, including paints, cleaners, stains and varnishes, car batteries, motor oil, and pesticides. When they are not properly handled, household hazardous waste can pose health risk to people and the environment.



For more information:

- Steps to Safe Management of Household Hazardous Waste. Learn how you can reduce the amount of household hazardous waste you generate and ensure that those wastes are safely stored and handled. <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/index.htm>

GREEN NOTE: Good management of hazardous wastes protects us all. Hummingbirds disappear when poisons run free.



Hairy Manzanita
(*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)

⇒More⇒

1978 Residents discover that Love Canal, New York, is contaminated by buried leaking chemical containers.

1978 The federal government bans chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as propellants in aerosol cans because CFCs destroy the ozone layer, which protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation.

1979 EPA demonstrates scrubber technology for removing air pollution from coal-fired power plants. This technology is widely adopted in the 1980s.



1979 Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, increases awareness and discussion about nuclear power safety. EPA and other agencies monitor radioactive fallout.

In the 80's

1980 Congress creates Superfund to clean up hazardous waste sites. Polluters are made responsible for cleaning up the most hazardous sites.



1981 National Research Council report finds acid rain intensifying in the Northeastern United States and Canada.

⇒More⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report, cont'd.

How can I reduce the amount of garbage I generate?



Individual consumers can help alleviate America's mounting trash problem by making environmentally aware decisions about everyday things like shopping and caring for the lawn. Like the story that says that cats have nine lives, so do many of the items that we use every day.

Reusing products is just one way to cut down on what we throw away. For more information:

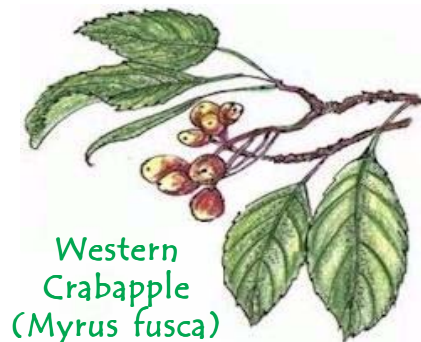
- The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste. Learn about practical steps you can take to reduce the amount and toxicity of your garbage.
<http://www.epa.gov/waste/wycd/catbook/index.htm>

Is my tap water safe?

Because of water's different sources and the different ways in which water is treated, the taste and quality of drinking water varies from place to place. Over 90 percent of our water suppliers meet standards for tap water quality. The best source of specific information about your drinking water is your water supplier: For more information:

- EPA's Ground Water and Drinking Water Web site www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/faq.html#safe

⇒ More ⇒



Western
Crabapple
(*Myrus fusca*)

1982 Congress enacts laws for safe disposal of nuclear waste.

1982 Dioxin contamination forces the government to purchase homes in Times Beach, Missouri. The federal government and the responsible polluters share the cleanup costs.

1982 A PCB landfill protest in North Carolina begins the environmental justice movement.

1983 Cleanup actions begin to rid the Chesapeake Bay of pollution stemming from sewage treatment plants, urban runoff, and farm waste.

1983 EPA encourages homeowners to test for radon gas, which causes lung cancer.

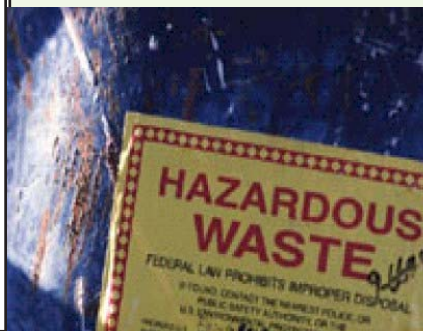
To date, more than 18 million homes have been tested for radon. Approximately 575 lives are saved annually due to radon mitigation and radon-resistant new construction.

1985 Scientists report that a giant hole in the earth's ozone layer opens each spring over Antarctica.

1986 Congress declares the public has a right to know when toxic chemicals are released into air, land, and water.

1987 The United States signs the Montreal Protocol, pledging to phase-out production of CFCs.

1987 Medical and other waste washes up on shores, closing beaches in New York and New Jersey.



⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report, cont'd.

How can I prevent stormwater pollution?



Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves, and debris out of the street gutters and storm drains that drain directly to lake, streams, rivers, and wetlands.



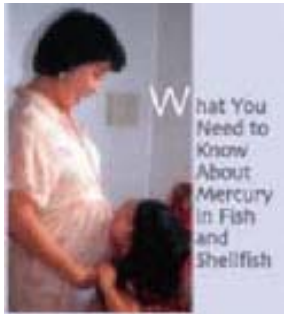
GREEN NOTE:
There is an ecologically sound alternative to ALL garden chemicals including those for lawns.

Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions. For more information:

· What You Can Do www.epa.gov/weatherchannel/whatyoucando.html

How can I protect my family from mercury in fish?

Fish are a lean, low-calorie source of protein. However, some fish may contain chemicals that can pose health risks. When



contaminant levels are unsafe, consumption advisories may recommend that people limit or avoid eating certain species of fish caught in certain places.

For more information:

· EPA's Fish Advisories Web site offers a brochure to help women of child-bearing age and

children select fish to avoid exposures to harmful effects of mercury. www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/



Fawn Lily (*Erythronium oregonum*)

⇒ More ⇒

1988 Congress bans ocean dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste.

1989 Exxon Valdez spills 11 million gallons of crude oil in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

In the 90's



Gaylord Nelson (Earth Day founder), right, with William K. Reilly, Earth Day 1990

1990 Congress passes the Clean Air Act Amendments, requiring states to demonstrate progress in improving air quality.

1990 EPA's Toxic Release Inventory tells the public which pollutants are being released from specific facilities in their communities.

The number of chemicals listed in EPA's Toxic Release Inventory nearly doubled, from 328 in 1990 to 644 in 1999.

⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report, cont'd.

Should I care if my vehicle's "check engine" light turns on?

All cars and light trucks since 1996 have a computer-based system called "on-board diagnostics" (OBD) that monitors the performance of some of the engine's major components, including emission controls. When the "check engine" or "service engine" light comes on and stays on, your OBD system is telling you that it has detected a problem with your vehicle. Getting your vehicle repaired when the OBD light appears can protect the environment, save you time and money before minor problems become major repairs. For more information:



- Find out about on-board diagnostics www.epa.gov/obd/veh_own.htm

How can I protect my children from lead poisoning?

Lead-based paint is a hazard if it is peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking. Even undisturbed lead-based paint can be a problem if it is in surfaces that children chew or that get lots of wear and tear.

For more information:

- How to protect your children from lead poisoning <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips.htm>



Blue Blossom (*Ceanothus thrysiiflorus*) Easy care evergreen shrub

⇒More⇒

1990 President George Bush signs the Pollution Prevention Act, emphasizing the importance of preventing—not just correcting—environmental damage.

1990 President George Bush signs the National Environmental Education Act, signifying the importance of educating the public to ensure scientifically sound, balanced, and responsible decisions about the environment.

1991 Federal agencies begin using recycled content products.

1991 EPA launches voluntary industry partnership programs for energy-efficient lighting and for reducing toxic chemical emissions.

1992 EPA launches the Energy Star® Program to help consumers identify energy-efficient products.

1993 EPA reports secondhand smoke contaminates indoor air, posing serious health risks to nonsmokers.

Today, more than 80 percent of Americans protect their children from secondhand smoke exposure at home.

1993 A cryptosporidium outbreak in Milwaukee, Wisconsin's drinking water sickens 400,000 people and kills more than 100.

The human race will be the cancer of the planet. ~Julian Huxley, attributed

⇒More⇒



Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report, cont'd.

How can I protect my children from second-hand smoke?

Secondhand smoke can cause bronchitis, pneumonia, ear infections and more severe asthma attacks. For more information:



Take the Smoke-free Home Pledge to help protect your children's health www.epa.gov/smokefree/

GREEN NOTE: Children must not be exposed to second-hand smoke.

It is not an option.

How can I find out if my home has a radon problem?

You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it may be a problem in your home. Radon exposures can result in lung cancer. Nearly one in 15 homes in the U.S. has a high level of indoor radon. For more information:



Learn how to avoid radon risks www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html

Choco-
late Lily
(*Fritillaria
affinis*)

In Your Community

How do I learn about environmental conditions in my community?

Window To My Environment helps you make a map of your community with links to data and information about air quality, water quality, drinking water safety, and toxic releases in your area. It combines interactive maps with links to federal, state and local environmental resources to answer questions about what is being done to protect the environment in your community. For more information:



My Environment <http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment/>

⇒ More ⇒



1993 President Bill Clinton directs the federal government to use its \$200 billion annual purchasing power to buy recycled and environmentally preferable products.

1994 EPA launches its Brownfields Program to clean up abandoned, contaminated sites to return them to productive community use

1994 EPA issues new standards for chemical plants that will reduce toxic air pollution by more than half a million tons each year—the equivalent of taking 38 million vehicles off the road annually.

1995 EPA launches an incentive-based acid rain program to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions.

1995 EPA requires municipal incinerators to reduce toxic emissions by 90 percent from 1990 levels.

1996 Public drinking water suppliers are required to inform customers about chemicals and microbes in their water, and funding is made available to upgrade water treatment plants.



Today, the vast majority of American households have safe drinking water, and receive annual reports on the quality of their drinking water.

⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report, cont'd.

How can I help to prevent pollution?



Now you can prevent pollution in lots of environmentally and economically beneficial ways. Extracting and using raw materials creates pollution and uses energy. By changing the way

you use products and resources you can prevent pollution and save money. Preventing pollution provides cleaner air and water, less waste in landfills, conservation of natural resources, reduced soil erosion, lower electricity and water bills, and increased property values.

For more information:

- Reduce your "environmental footprint" at home and in your community through these pollution prevention activities www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home/aboutp2/general.htm

How can I help manage waste?

Citizens in every community - including schools, businesses, and local governments - must work together to reduce and better manage our waste.

For more information:

- The What You Can Do Web site provides resources that explain solid and hazardous waste issues at the local level, and help you improve your community environment.



www.epa.gov/

epaoswer/osw/community.htm



Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)

GREEN NOTE: Earth Day is the perfect opportunity to evaluate the 'green' in your life. Try native plant gardening!

⇒ More ⇒

1996 EPA requires that home buyers and renters be informed about lead-based paint hazards.

1996 President Bill Clinton signs the Food Quality Protection Act to tighten standards for pesticides used to grow food, with special protections to ensure that foods are safe for children to eat.

1997 An Executive Order is issued to protect children from environmental health risks, including childhood asthma and lead poisoning.

1997 EPA issues tough new air quality standards for smog and soot, an action that would improve air quality for 125 million Americans.



1998 President Bill Clinton announces the Clean Water Action Plan to continue making America's waterways safe for fishing and swimming.

1999 President Bill Clinton announces new emissions standards for cars, sport utility vehicles, minivans and trucks, requiring them to be 77 percent to 95 percent cleaner than in 1999.

1999 EPA announces new requirements to improve air quality in national parks and wilderness areas.

In the 2000's

2000 EPA establishes regulations requiring more than 90 percent cleaner heavy duty highway diesel engines and fuel.

⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report, cont'd.

Is the air outside healthy?



EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI) provides daily air quality reports. The AQI tells you how clean or polluted your outdoor air is, and what associated

health effects might be a concern for you. The AQI focuses on health effects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. For more information:

·Learn more about your air quality here: http://www.epa.gov/airnow/aqi_brochure_02_14.pdf

How can I learn about toxic releases?

EPA's Toxics Release Inventory contains



information on releases of nearly 650 chemicals and chemical substances from facilities including manufacturing, metal and coal mining, electric utilities, and commercial hazardous waste treatment, among others. For more information:

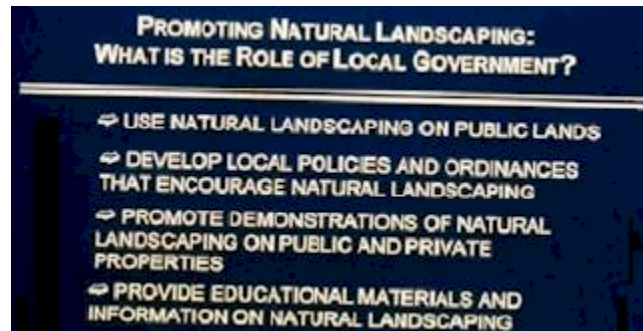
·Use the TRI Explorer to make your own report on the sources of toxics releases in your community, county or state. www.epa.gov/triexplorer/

Slide from EPA website,
Green Landscaping



Inside-Out
Flower
(*Vancouveria
hexandra*)

⇒More⇒



2002 President George W. Bush signs the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act to reclaim and restore thousands of abandoned properties.

2003 President George W. Bush signs the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, helping to prevent forest fires and safeguard and preserve the nation's forests.

2003 More than 4,000 school buses will be retrofitted through the Clean School Bus USA program, removing 200,000 pounds of particulate matter from the air over the next 10 years.



2003 Clear Skies legislation and alternative regulations are proposed to create a cap and trade system to reduce SO₂ emissions by 70 percent and NO_x emissions by 65 percent below current levels.

2004 New, more protective, 8-hour ozone and fine particulate standards go into effect across the country.

President George W. Bush proposes the Clean Air Rules of 2004 that will make people healthier now and in the future. The result is more protection—faster—which ensures that clean air will be this generation's contribution to the next.

⇒More⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

EPA's progress report, cont'd.



How can I protect my drinking water?

There are lots of ways that you can help keep your local water supply safe. You can help to

protect the watershed that surrounds it. For more information:



How you can protect your drinking water www.epa.gov/safewater/dwh/getin.html

Is it safe to swim at my favorite beach?

Find out whether your favorite beach water quality is being monitored, who is responsible for the monitoring, the pollutants that are being monitored, and whether advisories or closures have been issued.

For more information:

- EPA's Beachgoer's Guide www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/goer2.html



Red-Osier Dogwood
(*Cornus sericea* ssp.
stolonifera)

⇒ More ⇒

2004 EPA requires cleaner fuels and engines for off-road diesel machinery such as farm or construction equipment.

2005 EPA issues the Clean Air Interstate Rule and the Clean Air Mercury Rule.

More recent information will be posted on the EPA website as data is collected and events transpire. See www.epa.gov.



From the Editor:

While it is true, the EPA and various groups of people who have made living green a goal have made great immense changes, there is still much more to do.

Make no mistake, it's not a job to leave for politicians or judges or somebody else.

It's our job, yours and mine, to do something about the health of our planet.

Do just one thing every single day and you will be amazed at the difference this small action can make.

So get busy and

get green!



Racial injustice, war, urban blight, and environmental rape have a common denominator in our exploitative economic system. ~ Channing E. Phillips, speech, Washington, D.C., 22 April 1970

Special Section: Earth Day

How can I prevent marine engine pollution?



If you're one of 12 million boat owners in the United States, you can find ways to reduce hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxides emissions from your engine.
For more information:

- Boating Pollution Prevention Tips www.epa.gov/otaq/boat-fs.htm

How can I protect my watershed?

You can join the Watershed Information Network, discover what you can do to make a difference in your watershed, and learn more about nearby estuaries, lakes, streams, and rivers.
For more information:



- Watershed Information Network www.epa.gov/win/
- Fifteen Things You Can Do to Make a Difference in Your Watershed www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/earthday/earthday.html



Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)

One of the finest Northwest Native groundcovers, this evergreen is prized by florists for its beautiful foliage. Gardeners value its hardy dependability.

At School



How can I learn more about our environment?

Whether you are a teacher or a student in kindergarten, or doing postdoctoral research, EPA has many educational resources to offer you when you visit our educational resources web pages.
For more information:

- Educational resources www.epa.gov/epahome/educational.htm

⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

How can I learn about national environmental conditions and trends?



EPA's "Environmental Indicators Initiative" seeks to improve the Agency's ability to report on the status of and trends in environmental conditions and their impacts on human health and the nation's natural resources.

For more information:

- Environmental Indicators Initiative www.epa.gov/indicators/

environment?



How can I learn more about toxic releases in the

EPA's report, "How are the Toxics Release Inventory data used?" contains case studies of how government, business, academic and citizens are using EPA's Toxics Release Inventory.

For more information:

- How are the Toxics Release Inventory data used?
www.epa.gov/tri/guide_docs/2003_datausepaper.pdf

How can I protect my kids from the harmful effects of the sun?

Overexposure to UV radiation can lead to serious health

effects, such as skin cancer, cataracts, and immune suppression

EPA's SunWise Program can help you protect yourself and your students from overexposure to the

sun through the use of classroom-based, school-based, and community-based advisories. For more information:



- SunWise www.epa.gov/sunwise/



GREEN NOTE: Sweet Gale or Pacific Bayberry (*Myrica gale*), very aromatic. Important wetland plant with excellent nitrogen fixing abilities.



Give a man a fish, and he can eat for a day. But teach a man how to fish, and he'll be dead of mercury poisoning inside of three years. ~Charles Haas

➡ More ➡

Special Section: Earth Day



Where can I find proposed environmental regulations?

Regulations.gov enables you to search, view, and comment on regulations, topic-by-topic, that are being proposed from all federal agencies. For more information:

- Regulations.gov www.regulations.gov

What about pollution from school buses?

The goal of Clean School Bus USA is to reduce both children's exposure to diesel exhaust, and the amount of air pollution created by diesel school buses. Consider honoring Earth Day by planning a clean school bus event in your community.

For more information:



Clean School Buses Earth Day Event Planning Materials

- Earth Day Ideas www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/e_day_ideas.htm

- Earth Day Resources www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/e_day_resources.htm

What about pesticides in schools?

Ask your school administrator to use integrated pest management as a safer and often less costly alternative to regularly scheduled spraying. For more information:

- Pesticides in schools www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/



Salmonberry
(*Rubus spectabilis*)



GREEN NOTE: NW Native berries look good in the landscape, are delicious to eat and are loved by wildlife.

Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)
Photo credit:
Walter Siegmund



⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

Is my classroom environment safe?



The Healthy School Environments Web pages are intended to serve as a gateway to on-line resources to help facility managers, school administrators, architects, design engineers, school nurses, parents,

teachers and staff address environmental health issues in schools.

For more information:

- Healthy School Environments
cfpub.epa.gov/schools/index.cfm



How can I improve the indoor air quality at my school?

EPA's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools

Kit shows schools how to carry out a practical plan of action to improve indoor air problems at little or no cost using straightforward activities and in-house staff.

For more information:

- EPA's Tools for Schools Kit www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/tools4s2.html

Giant Sequoia
(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)
The largest living Giant Sequoia is the General Sherman Tree in the Giant Forest area of the Sequoia National Park in California. Standing at 274.9' (83.8 meters) tall, and 102.6' (31.3 meters) in circumference at its base, the General's wood is roughly equivalent to 180 miles of 2x4's.

Photo credit: Tim Tolle



⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

At Work

How is EPA a good environmental steward?



EPA lives Earth Day every day by operating sustainable facilities and using environmentally preferable practices. Learn more about how the Agency is reducing energy and water use, purchasing green power, constructing green buildings, and preventing pollution.

For more information:

- Greening EPA www.epa.gov/greeningepa/

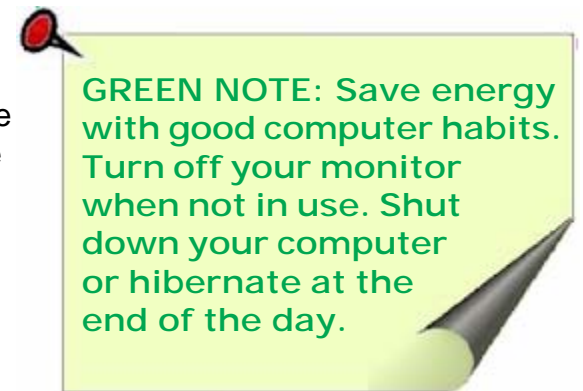
How can my employer be more energy efficient?



One easy way is by choosing office products (computers, faxes, etc.) that have earned an ENERGY STAR label. You can also help your organization become more aware of opportunities for increased efficiency.

For more information:

- ENERGY STAR www.energystar.gov/
- Increase Awareness at Work www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=energy_awareness.bus_energy_work



How can my company promote environmental stewardship?



EPA has voluntary programs that can help companies large and small reduce their environmental impacts while also saving energy and resources.

For more information:

- Find out what you can do at work www.epa.gov/epahome/atwork.htm
- Find out how companies in every industrial sector –including agriculture – can “green” their facilities and processes, by exploring EPA’s many voluntary partnership programs. www.epa.gov/partners/programs/
- Lean manufacturing is a business model and collection of methods that help eliminate waste while delivering quality products on time and at least cost. www.epa.gov/lean

⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

How can I reduce the environmental impacts of commuting?

Encourage your employer to be a “Best Workplaces for Commuters.” Offering recognition for innovative solutions to commuting challenges faced by employers and employees, Best Workplaces for Commuters is a new public-private sector voluntary program advocating employer-provided commuter benefits. For more information:



· Best Workplaces for Commuters www.bwc.gov/

How do I manage electronic equipment replacement?

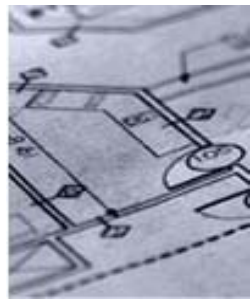
The Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) is a voluntary partnership program that encourages federal facilities and agencies to produce greener electronic products, reduce impacts of electronic products during use, and to manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way. For more information:



· Federal Electronics Challenge

www.federalelectronicchallenge.net/

How can my company adopt an Environmental Management System?



EPA makes sure that we are “walking the talk” when we encourage citizens to protect the environment and their health. EPA has put a new Environmental Management System (EMS) in place at our offices to reduce our environmental footprint by acknowledging the environmental aspects of our day-to-day activities and management. At EPA Headquarters, we are reducing the impact of our energy and water use, waste generation, natural resource depletion, and pollution associated with commuting to and operating our facilities and tracking our progress with our new EMS. For more information:

· Environmental Management Systems (EMSs) resources for businesses, associations, the public, and state and federal agencies www.epa.gov/ems/



Lovely low-growing NW native perennial, Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) has beautiful heart-shaped leaves and inconspicuous dark red flowers.

⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

While Shopping

How does my shopping affect the environment?

Everything you buy affects the Earth, but some choices have a lesser impact. Educating yourself about the products you buy can empower you to make a difference in protecting the planet. It's called "green purchasing," and it's easy to do. For more information:



• Green Purchasing www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/specials/funfacts/shopping.htm



GREEN NOTE: Take shopping bags with you instead of using the store's bags. Make bags from old jeans or other heavy fabrics or buy at tag sales or second-hand stores.

Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa*) has been loved for centuries for its sprays of pendulous pink blooms and fern-like leaves. How can such a delicate plant grow so prolifically? It is naturally perfect for NW gardens.

How can I buy energy-efficient products?

The next time you need to replace a product for your home or office, consider choosing one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR. Energy-efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bill with similar savings of greenhouse gas emissions, without sacrificing style or comfort. ENERGY STAR is a government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment by making the energy-efficient choice. For more information:



• ENERGY STAR www.energystar.gov/

How do I find the most fuel-efficient vehicle?

EPA's Green Vehicle Guide gives information about the environmental performance of vehicles. This guide provides the emissions scores and fuel economy of any model year 2000 or later car or truck. For more information:



• EPA's Green Vehicle Guide www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/



⇒ More ⇒

Special Section: Earth Day

Earth Day Take Home Kit

These web resources provide tips that you and your family can use to protect the environment and your health, while celebrating Earth Day.

EPA Explorers: Environmental Kids Club



You can choose a range of activities from the “Game Room” to the “Science Room.” Also learn about “You and Your Environment,” and, if you need to, “Ask EPA.” For more information:

- Environmental Kids Club www.epa.gov/kids/

Live, Learn, Play— Tune Into Your Health and Environment



Did you know that the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the food you eat can affect the way your body grows and works? Learn how with fun activities and music! For more information:

- Live, Learn, Play yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/youthbook.htm

Tips To Protect Children From Environmental Risks

Safeguard the home to avoid harmful effects of smoke, lead, pesticides, radon, carbon monoxide and mercury.

For more information:



- What you can do to protect children from Environmental Risks yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/tips.htm

GREEN NOTE: Children may not be too interested in gardening but they'll love these NW Native strawberries just as much as children did 100 years ago.



➡ More ➡

Special Section: Earth Day



Breathing Clean Air

How clean is the air in your city today? You can find out the answer in several ways. The Air Quality Index (AQI) tells you how clean or polluted your outdoor air is, and what associated health effects might be of concern to you. Daily AQI forecasts, as well as real-time AQI conditions, are reported for over 300 cities across the US.

For more information:

- AirNow www.airnow.gov/



Avoiding Too Much Sun

Learn how to be “sun-safe” and protect yourself from harmful exposures to ultraviolet rays.

For more information:

- SunWise Kids www.epa.gov/sunwise/kids.html



Planet Protectors Club For Kids

As a Planet Protector, your mission is to improve the world around you by making less trash. Planet Protectors also help other people learn to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

For more information:

- Planet Protectors www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/kids_ppc.htm



Drinking Water

Learn about how drinking water gets to your home and what keeps it safe.

For more information:

- Drinking Water and Ground Water Kids' Web site www.epa.gov/OGWDW/kids/

Healthy Lawn Healthy Environment

Care for Your Lawn in Environmentally-Friendly Ways.

For more information:

- Healthy Lawn Healthy Environment www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/lawncare.pdf



Another kid pleaser: NW
Native Huckleberries!
Wally's favorite--you'll
love them too.



Special Section: Earth Day



On this day, each of us has the opportunity to look honestly and clearly at our daily lives to evaluate the impact we are making on this planet we call home.

However, I believe the real core of this holiday lies in appreciating the earth--celebrating this glorious land and all its facets.

- ✿ The sky, so blue with fluffy clouds so white or gun-metal gray as the wind blasts the raindrops now coming from those very clouds that were bouyant a minute ago.
- ✿ The oceans, lakes and streams teaming with fish the bears and raccoons and little barefoot children try to catch on a summer's day.
- ✿ The birds that sing to us as they busily harvest those bugs and slugs aiming to intrude in our carefully tended gardens.
- ✿ And the plants. O those plants that groom the air we breathe, that shade us from the sun and keep us warm in the wilds of winter, that give us beauteaus flowers and delectable fruit for jam and salads and afternoon treats to touch our hearts.

So, celebrate! appreciate! and send this joy forward to the earth and all the other beings with whom we share our everdays.

Jennifer