

10 ways to Earth-Kind® your garden

1. Adding mulch and maintaining a three-inch layer of plant-derived mulch, such as native hardwood, will significantly reduce the amount of water required in the landscape.
2. Low-volume irrigation Micro and drip irrigation is typically at least 90 percent efficient compared to traditional sprinkler irrigation.
3. Irrigation auditing/evaluation is an assessment of your irrigation system's efficiency and effectiveness. It will help identify problems such as leaks or sprinkler heads that are damaged or misaligned.
4. Cycle and soak watering by programming your irrigation system to split runtimes into several shorter cycles can save a substantial amount of water.
5. Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This balanced approach to pest control focuses on using cultural, biological, and mechanical control measures. Under IPM, chemical control is used only as a last resort.
6. Composting can convert yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, and pruning waste into compost, rather than paying to have it removed and added to a landfill.
7. Fertilizing based on soil tests by sampling the soil in your lawn or landscape properly and having it analyzed, can help the environment and your wallet.
8. Rainwater harvesting is collecting and storing rainwater. It can reduce your water bill and is also pure.
9. Preparing planting areas and the soil properly can drastically reduce the need for fertilizers in both new and existing beds. It can also reduce disease problems and the amount of water required.
10. Turf maintenance and sound turf management can greatly reduce your lawn's labor, water, and fertilizer requirements. Keeping turf mowed to a reasonably greater height promotes a deeper root system, reduces plant stress, and provides more shade for the soil surface.

Learn More:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/10-ways-to-make-your-landscape-earth-kind/>