

FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

I picked up a bookmark recently marked EarthKind Landscaping. Can you tell me more about this?

Certainly!



The Principles are Quite Simple

There are multiple ways for you to get involved.

The concept is to lower our environmental impact and increase conservation of our natural resources.

Some of the steps to take are;

- *proper maintenance of your grass*
- *rainwater harvesting*
- *soil testing before fertilizing*
- *proper mulching practices*
- *adhering to an Integrated Pest Management system*
- *proper and regular inspections and maintenance of your low volume irrigation systems*
- *adhering to a soak and cycle irrigation system (less often and more deeply)*
- *using what would be deemed yard waste in compost to add nutrients back to the soil*



Ca Find out what your lawn needs. **Mg**
Before fertilizing this fall get a soil test.

The answer to multiple garden, lawn, tree and plant questions start with the same answer. Get a soil test!

It will provide a soil analysis so you know exactly what if anything to add. Saving time, money and resources.

Nutrient

A substance that an organism needs to live and to grow.

It is easy to do and the reward is well worth the effort.

go to soiltesting.tamu.edu

Print the Urban Soil Submittal Form (1 form per sample)

soil submittal form urban 2023 (tamu.edu)

fill it out and follow the directions on the page 2 and below

If you need help give us a holler and we can walk you through the process.

Consider the Don't Bag It Method!

Instead of bagging yard waste ponder shredding or composting.



- *fall leaves can be a great source of nutrients*
- *shredded they can be an excellent mulch*
- *recycled in the landscape they save the environment and money*
- *you might rake them up and run the mower over them to shred*

- *Instead of bagging the grass clippings recycle them by shredding or letting fall back to the ground*
- *Saving time, money and the environment*



Yard Waste Adds Up 20%

The amount of yard waste to landfills in Texas each year is close to 20% of all landfill volume!



Composting is the process of breaking down organic materials into usable organic materials for amendments to the soil and flower, vegetable beds.

Compost can improve soil drainage, add nutrients to the soil, help with retaining moisture and encourage healthy growth of ecosystems in the soil.

Composting is well worth the effort.

For more information you can check out our demonstration gardens and our upcoming classes

<https://fbmg.org/demonstration-gardens/compost-area/>

or

<https://fbmg.org/grow-your-own-2023/>




*Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk*

*Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu*

*Phone:
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon*



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