How Green is Your Garden?

- other elements work together to where soil microbes, insects, plants and Gardens are complex ecosystems
- supported by good gardening practices. be minimal in a naturally balanced garden Pest control and fertilizer needs should promote a natural balance.
- and pest resistance. stressing plants, and reducing disease killing beneficial insects and microbes, the balance of the natural ecosystem by Pesticides and fertilizers may disrupt
- maintenance. Find Phipps-recommended irrigation, tertilizer and disease and pest the region's climate reduce the need for Sustainable and native plants suited to
- list of PA invasive plants at: your garden and natural areas. Find a Aviod invasive plants that can take over sustainable plants at local nurseries.
- question online or call: 412/665-2364 Phipps' Greenline may help. Submit a Have a green gardening question? Dr. www.dcnr.state.pa.us/torestry/wildplant

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Sustainability: "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

Green Garden Guide

Pocket



PHIPPS

Autumn Joy Stonecrop (Sedum) Hylotelephium telephium 'Herbstfreude

Soil and Plant Health

In the Store

Choose organic, OMRI listed and

- plant-based products.
- Compost, Worm Castings, Compost Tea, Look for these soil amendments:
- Leaf Mulch, Mushroom Manure, Animal
- Liquid Seaweed, Kelp Meal, Fish FOOK for these organic fertilizers: munsqy , Apsum
- Sulfate of Potash Magnesia Bone Meal, Blood Meal, Alfalfa Meal, Emulsion or Fish Meal, Feather Meal,

- Conduct a soil test before buying or ບອຸດມະດ ອຸປາ ກ
- applying soil amendments or tertilizers.
- Soil amendments release nutrients and
- promote long-term plant resistance to build soil structure over time, helping to
- disease and pests.
- nutrient boost for plants. Organic tertilizers provide a short-term
- excessive use can result in pest • Use fertilizers sparingly, it at all;
- problems and environmental pollution.

tag at local nurseries www.phipps.conservatory.org

Look for the Project Green Heart

Phipps Top 10 Sustainable

Plants for 2010

Minimal watering and fertilizer needs

Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Gold Mop'

Hydrangea paniculata 'Chantilly Lace'

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Rhus aromatica 'Grow-Low'

Common Serviceberry

Non-invasive habits

3

4

6

6

0

Disease and pest resistant

Amelanchier arborea

[apanese Falsecypress]

Threadleaf Tickseed

Coreopsis verticillata

Dawn Redwood

Fragrant Sumac

Panicle Hydrangea

Alchemilla mollis

Lady's Mantle

8 Foam Flower

Switchgrass 9 Panicum virgatum

Tiarella cordifolia

How To Use Your Pocket Guide:

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Carry it in your wallet for easy reference

Weed Reduction

In the Store

Untreated, un-dyed mulch helps

enrich soil over time.

prevent weeds, retain water and

Use compost as an alternative to

necessary for plant growth.

for manual weed removal.

garden.

to garden beds.

shredded bark to supply nutrients

Taproot weeders, hoes, forks and soil

Avoid weed and feed products that

can overfertilize and overtreat a

• Apply a layer of newspaper, 4 to 6

cultivators provide efficient assistance

In the Garden

sheets thick, under a top-dressing of

mulch; avoid glossy or colored pages.

Hand-pull weeds before they go to seed

Instead of bagging your leaves in fall,

• Plant groundcover or perennials in

they have a chance to grow.

instead of using a chemical weed killer.

shred or mow them and apply a layer

bare spots to shade out weeds before

Pesticides kill good bugs too. Only spray

important; consult a protessional before

Disinfect tools with alcohol to avoid

Correct pest and disease diagnosis is

on the look-out for your helpers!

Cood buss keep pests in check, so stay

remove them by hand, or trap them.

Many pests can be controlled without

Inspect your garden regularly for pests

In the Garden

Only about 0.1% of garden bugs are

Thuringiensis (Bt), Iron Phosphate,

Horticultural Soaps and Oils, Bacillus

As a last resort, use these to spot treat.

In the Store

Pest Control

pesticides - squirt them off with water,

plants to attract good bugs.

resorting to controls.

to catch problems early.

problematic pests.

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Hant nectar and pollen-producing

rne propiem areas.

spreading disease.

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Healthy Lawn Care

In the Store

seed (fescue or ryegrass) tolerant of

In the Garden

promote deep, drought tolerant roots

Choose endophyte-enhanced grass

• Cut grass to 3.5" or longer to

Use a mulching mower - clippings

• Keep mower blades sharp to reduce

Water deeply and infrequently, if at all,

Seed all bare spots of soil immediately.

Apply compost to lawn in fall to enrich

Conduct a soil test before applying soil

hand-pull others. Clover can benefit

application of nematodes, if needed.

Composted yard waste and food scraps

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harvest rainwater for garden irrigation.

certified (FSC) and untreated wood.

waste contained as they decompose.

A compost bin placed near the garden

is more efficient than a hose and nozzle,

A soaker hose or drip irrigation system

Bypass pruners cut more cleanly than

gas-powered tools only as a last resort.

• Use manual tools first, then electric; use

will take care of most garden needs.

A good pruner, shovel, trowel and rake

In the Store

Tools & Equipment

will keep yard and organic kitchen

Choose Forest Stewardship Council-

Install a rain barrel to capture and

sidewalks reduces water runoff.

Permeable paving for patios and

watering wand, or sprinkler.

anvil pruners.

Keep tools sharp and oiled.

are garden gold.

Learn to tolerate some weeds and

your lawn by adding nitrogren.

Control grubs with an August

followed by a top-dressing of compost.

to encourage deep root growth.

are a rich source of nutrients.

drought and pests.

and shade out weeds.

the risk of disease.

soil and reduce thatch.

amendments or fertilizers.