

# Green Your Home: Improving Outdoor Spaces

There are many simple things that you can do to make your yard, patio, or windows more appealing to your family and to wildlife. Use the following questions to help you identify various ways that you can green your outdoor space.



- 1 Can you plant herbs, flowering plants, strawberries, tomatoes, and other small plants in window boxes or containers on your patio?  Yes  No

---

- 2 Can you hang nesting boxes for birds and bats in your yard? Birds and bats eat lots of insects, including mosquitoes, which will make your yard more comfortable!  Yes  No

---

- 3 If your lawn and plants need to be watered, do you water them during the cooler parts of the day to minimize evaporation loss?  Yes  No

---

- 4 Do you plant native vegetation that is adapted to the local climate so that it requires less watering and benefits native wildlife?  Yes  No

---

- 5 Can you remove invasive species from your yard that compete with native species?  Yes  No

---

- 6 Can you place mulch around plants and trees to retain moisture?  Yes  No

---

- 7 Can you plant flowers, shrubs, and trees that provide food and shelter for wildlife? Watching wildlife is a fun and relaxing family activity.  Yes  No

---

- 8 Do you have several layers of plants that provide shelter and food for wildlife, such as ground cover, small shrubs, large shrubs, and trees?  Yes  No

---

- 9 Do you use nontoxic methods to eliminate or reduce the use of pesticides?  Yes  No

---

- 10 Do you use a compost bin for yard waste, fruit peels, and vegetable scraps? The compost will make a good fertilizer for your yard.  Yes  No

---

- 11 Can you plant a vegetable garden and grow some of your own food?  Yes  No