

RESOURCES

Beneficial Landscaping

US EPA

<http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/landscaping.htm>

National Agricultural Library

US Department of Agriculture

http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=2&tax_level=2&tax_subject=298&topic_id=1429

Landscape Waste Prevention:

Sustainable Landscaping

California Integrated Waste Management Board

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/landscaping/>

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

ABOUT TRADITIONAL LANDSCAPING

The traditional landscaping of a green, manicured lawn, that is frequently perceived as beautiful and aesthetically pleasing, is harmful in several ways.

- They require the use of fuel-powered machinery to keep them maintained.
- Fertilizers and pesticides are often applied, sometimes in large quantities, to keep the landscape looking green and fresh.
- They have the capacity to absorb less than 10% of water as compared to a native woodland landscape.
- Because of ongoing manicuring, they generate large quantities of yard waste.

THE BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

Sustainable landscaping is landscaping that has a minimal impact to the environment. Further, beneficial landscaping is a type of sustainable landscaping that creates a landscaped environment in balance with the natural ecosystem while still being aesthetically pleasing and beneficial to the humans. Native or natural landscaping is often thought to be the primary focus of these landscapes, but they are just a part of the whole concept. Sustainable landscaping is beneficial to businesses in many ways:

- Includes native plants that are well-suited for the local landscape
- Increases water absorption, therefore preventing the flooding problems typically seen in an urban environment
- Uses sunlight and water – even just a small pond – to control the temperature of a building
- Avoids the use of pesticides and fertilizers
- Eliminates the use for mowers and other fuel-powered machinery
- Includes rain gardens, which absorb water, filter contaminants, and prevent clean water from going into the sewer system.
- Works for small or large landscapes, including businesses
- Can be a great educational opportunity for employees and visitors
- Fits well into a company's sustainability plan
- Saves money due to less maintenance, chemical and water usage.