

7 steps to natural organic gardening

1 manage the soil

Make soil care a priority, **Add** organic matter to improve and maintain a fertile soil to produce healthy plants, which are better able to withstand disease and pest damage.

2 composting

Compost is one of nature's best soil improver for plants. It **improves** soil fertility and stimulates healthy root development in plants. Using compost improves texture, soil structure, aeration, loosens clay soils, helps sandy soils retain water. The organic matter in compost provides food for microorganisms, which keeps the soil in a healthy, balanced condition.

3 encourage wildlife

Protect and **encourage** wildlife to live and feed in your garden. They are a great natural pest control.

4 recycle-reuse

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don't throw away anything that can be recycled in the garden, or used to improve the fertility of the soil, or the look of your garden. Reuse and recycle to cut down the use of **natural resources**, reduce disposal problems and save money.

5 chemical free

Avoid using synthetic fertilizers or pesticides on plants. **Natural** or **organic** alternatives are available.

6 conserve water

Water is a precious resource. Collecting rainwater in water butts and other containers is one of the best ways to conserve water to be used again whenever there's a dry spell, and **reduce** your water consumption.

7 grow native plants

Buy native plants suited to the site. Plants adapted to your climate and environment are better **able to grow** without a lot of input, they have better "immune systems" to pests in the area.