

CONSERVATION CORNER

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Smart gardening is the practice of improving the health of your lawn or garden while reducing waste. Leaves, grass, fertilizer, and other common plant care pollutants can be harmful to marine life and public health when water pushes them into a gutter or drain. Once green waste is on our city streets water can force it into our local water bodies such as Puddingstone Reservoir, the San Gabriel River, and the Pacific Ocean. Reducing this green waste from residential properties and preventing this storm water from reaching our local waterways is one of La Verne's major environmental goals. Several gardening practices can be adopted to reduce water use, minimize green waste, and prevent water quality concerns in our surface waters.

Residents can reduce their risk of polluting waters by applying several good housekeeping practices outdoors:

- Monitor sprinklers for overspray. Water sent onto streets, driveways, and sidewalks will pick up pollutants on their way to the ocean.
- Reduce green waste by composting.
- Apply fertilizers or chemicals as lightly as possible. Do not apply at all if rain is anticipated.
- Read the direction on your fertilizers and other plant growth aids. Do not over apply!
- Use dry methods like a broom to clean hard surfaces such as driveways or sidewalks near your home. Avoid leaving leaves near the curb to the maximum extent possible as these will contribute to water pollution downstream.
- Use water wisely when irrigating your plants and compost. Remember to make water conservation and waste reduction Californian ways of life!
- Attend an LA County Smart Gardening Workshop to learn more gardening techniques that can help address waste reduction, water conservation, and pollution prevention!

Diamond Bar Smart Gardening Workshops

LA County has two free upcoming smart gardening workshops in Diamond Bar. The first is a Beginner Gardening Workshop. Beginner workshops teach you about water wise gardening, composting, and grasscycling. The workshop is on 6/24/2017 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm at the Diamond Bar Center (Sycamore Room), 1600 Grand Ave, Diamond Bar, CA, 91765.

Then a few weeks later LA County is offering an Advanced Gardening workshop. Advanced workshops teach you organic gardening, landscaping with native drought-tolerant plants, and integrated pest management (environmentally-sound ways to control pests). The workshop is on 7/22/17 from 1 pm – 2:30 pm at the Diamond Bar Center (Sycamore Room), 1600 Grand Ave, Diamond Bar, 91765. After each workshop compost and worm bins are offered at discounted rates.

Pomona Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundup

Please collect your hazardous waste (pesticides, old batteries, used automotive fluids, used cleaning products, etc.) and electronic waste products (computers, old televisions, and broken cell phones) for a FREE collection event in Pomona on June 24, 2017 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the LA County Fair Hotel & Exposition Complex along White Ave (enter through Gate 9- Area 4), Pomona, CA, 91769. All L.A. County residents are welcome to participate. If you can't make it to this event, there is a roundup nearly every weekend in L.A. County. The entire schedule and more details are posted at www.888cleanla.com.

