

# YARD SMART

## **Conserve Natural Resources**

Most municipal water comes from overstressed underground aquifers that are being drawn at a rate greater than what is needed to recharge them. By pledging to be Yard Smart you are making a commitment to reducing your use of natural resources like water and fossil fuels.



"I pledge to use ecologically-smart practices in my yard." I believe these sustainable yard practices will help keep our community healthy, naturally beautiful, and safe from harmful chemicals, unnecessary pollution, and waste. I will also try to educate others in my community about the benefits of these practices.



## **Waste Reduction**

Composting

□ Vermicomposting

Reusing/recycling product and

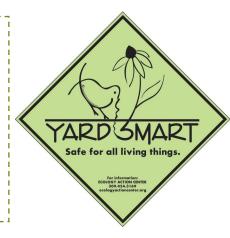
nursery packaging

Using recycled content materials in landscaping or garden amenities

Borrowing or renting rarely-used equipment

#### TIT - 0

- Water Conservation
  Capturing water from roof in a Rain Barrel
- for watering
- Watering during cool times of dayUsing drip irrigation or soaker hose
- Using porous paving materials
- Using porous paving materialsMulching gardens and around trees
- □ Reducing lawn grass area
- ☐ Planting a native prairie area
- Xeriscaping with plants adapted to low water conditions





A reel mower or push mower has the least impact. This assumes that your physical condition and lawn size are a good match. Some people convert most of their lawn to native landscaping, and leave a smaller part as an organic lawn to make this option work.

#### **Energy Conservation**

- Minimal or no mowing
- Using electric or reel mowers
  Using other electric or human
- powered tools

  Minimal or no use fertilizers or
- Minimal or no use fertilizers or pesticides
- Encouraging pest predators with integrated pest management techniques
- Manually removing invasive plant species
- Planting trees for shade or wind break to lower home energy needs