



EcoBeneficial Tips

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Top 20 Ways to Create An EcoBeneficial Landscape



1. Reduce or eliminate the "Green Desert" (lawn/turf). It is an ecological wasteland.



2. Increase the health of your soil. Everything starts with the soil: healthy soil makes for healthy plants.

3. Avoid synthetic pesticides. Rachel Carson warned about them 50 years ago in *Silent Spring*.

4. Limit the use of organic pesticides. Use only when absolutely necessary, and then sparingly and carefully.

5. Support beneficial insects, nature's pest control, by planting a diversity of native plants to support them.

6. Tolerate some messiness in your landscape to support wildlife. Dead logs, tree snags and brush piles are homes for many creatures.

7. Tolerate some plant damage in your landscape. Valuable insects have to eat too, and they don't eat very much.

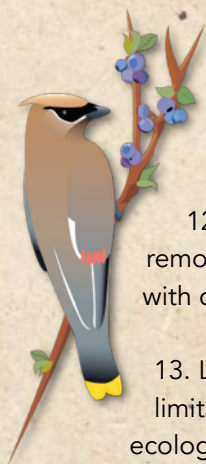
8. Leave perennials standing through winter. They can provide food and cover for birds and insects.



9. Plant more native plants to support your local ecosystem. Native plants have co-evolved with each other and with the wildlife around them.



10. Think "plant communities" when selecting plants. Native plants don't grow in isolation. Learn which plants grow together naturally, and plant that way.



11. Eradicate or reduce the invasive plants in your landscape. Always try organic, mechanical means first.

12. When invasive plants are removed, replace them quickly and thickly with competitive, regionally native plants.

13. Limit exotic plants and know their limitations. They will not provide the same depth of ecological services as native plants.



14. Encourage biodiversity by planting diversely. Bio-diverse ecosystems are more resilient to pests, diseases and climate change.

15. Avoid double-flowered plants. They often have less nectar, pollen, and seed than single-flowered plants.

16. Select natural forms of native plants for best ecosystem dynamics.



17. Provide a water source for wildlife and insects. This is crucial, but often forgotten in many landscapes.



18. Emulate healthy local natural areas in your garden. Use nature as your reference for structure and plant selection.

19. Always plant the right plant in the right place. Some plants are flexible about where they are planted, but many are not.

20. When choosing plants, find the beauty in ecological function. As Mom said: physical beauty is only skin deep.

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