

Going Green Can Be Simple – Really!

You don't need to make huge changes in your life to help the environment. It can be as easy or as involved as you want, the important thing is to do what you can.

1. **Ask for a natural alternative** when shopping for fertilizers and insecticides. Hicks carries many earth-friendly alternatives. One of our favorites is Milorganite. This natural fertilizer is great for lawns, flowers, trees and vegetables and is safe for use around children and pets.
2. **Plant a tree.** Planting a deciduous tree on the south side of your home can help to reduce cooling costs in the summer and heating costs in the winter. Trees also provide a habitat for birds. Consider planting native trees and shrubs, which are best adapted to the local climate and once established, seldom need watering, mulching or protection from frost.
3. **Grow your own fruits, vegetables and herbs.** It's easier than you think and helps your family save money too. Nothing tastes as good as freshly picked vine-ripened produce!
4. **Start a compost bin.** This is a great way to recycle yard and kitchen waste to create your own organic soil. Everything grows better when you plant it with compost.
5. **Install drip irrigation.** Conserve water and lower your water bill by adding drip irrigation to your beds and pots. By watering only the root zone, your plants will be healthier.
6. **Install a pond.** Create a wildlife oasis for frogs, snails, turtles, plants and fish.
7. **Purchase beneficial insects** (in-season) such as ladybugs and praying mantis to eat pests instead of spraying chemicals.
8. **Improve your indoor air quality** by adding houseplants such as the Peace Lily, Spider Plant and Chinese Evergreen. These plants help to remove air pollutants from your home.
9. **Ask Questions.** Whether you are buying fertilizers, plants or food for your family. Ask yourself: What is this product made from? Is there a natural alternative?

Hicks carries a large selection of green alternatives for your lawn, garden and home. For more information, look for our new earth-friendly symbol on signs throughout our store. Buying products that contain this symbol are a good first step to "Going Green."