

# 20 WAYS... TO A GREENER GARDEN

## Greener gardens intro

Nothing feels greener than gardening. Aren't we part of the natural world when we work in our yards?

But gardening has its un-green downside: fertilizer and pesticide pollution, wasted water, plastic pots in landfills, oil burned to heat greenhouses and ship plants to market — no to mention the risk of insect-, weed- and fungus-killing poisons on our lawns and our garden vegetables.

Yet if we are careful, our little patches of ground, all put together, can truly be world —saving. Plants cool the Earth, hold in moisture, provide habitat for wildlife and absorb harmful excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Food we grow ourselves can be free of pesticides and cost nothing to ship. Plants — and puttering around with plants — soothe our harried souls.

The trick is to garden with the greater environ-



Living the *green* life



## Avoid using pesticides

Instead, build up healthy soil to prevent disease. Use barriers such as netting or cutworm collars. Wash aphids away with spray from the hose. Encourage beneficial insects that eat harmful ones. Instead of spraying, tolerate a few weeds, spots or insects if it's only an aesthetic problem.

## Choose plants carefully

Pick insect- and disease-resistant plants that match your sun and soil conditions so they don't become vulnerable.

## Use native plants

They are adapted to the local climate, soils and pests, and can fend for themselves better than most imported plants. This means, for such plants, less watering and fewer chemicals.

