

Recycle



This Month's Special Feature:

Recycling in the Garden

The weather is definitely warmer now and gardeners are starting to emerge from their winter hibernation.



Last month I was lucky enough to get an invitation from Tim Crowther to visit BBC Radio Leeds and talk on his Sunday morning gardening programme. It was great speaking to Tim and Joe Maiden. Tim also asked his listeners if they could send me any recycling advice, hints and tips that they use in the garden, some of which are listed below. I would like to thank all the BBC Radio Leeds listeners for their help and for subscribing to the Recycle Newsletter, together we can make a difference by all **Doing Our Bit!** One of the most popular items that was recycled was the humble toilet roll, used for planting seeds and composting. Most gardeners make their own compost from kitchen waste and garden plants, which also helps save money.



Rebecca with Tim Crowther at BBC Radio Leeds

Brenda McKee, BBC Radio Leeds Listener, uses toilet rolls to grow seeds and cuttings.



"I start them from seed in toilet roll cores filled with compost. When they are of sufficient size, I plant them out complete in the rolls (which, in time, rot down naturally into the soil). The other advantage is that you do not disturb the root system in the way that tends to happen when knocking them out of plant-pots.

Carol, BBC Radio Leeds Listener, gave us this excellent tip:

"We re-use 6 pint plastic milk containers, I found that if I cut between the handle and the bottle top, coming round to a lower point in the front, they make handy carriers for taking things to the compost heap, watering the garden near the water butt etc, just general handy carriers really.

I am a member of a local organic gardeners group, some of them don't approve of plastic in the garden, but I reckon it's all around anyway, if we can re-use it we should.



Other hints and tips that came in from BBC Radio Leeds listeners are:

"Large dustbin lids turned upside down with water in them act as bird baths and places for the birds to drink."

"Toilet roll and other paper in the compost bin help make the compost."

"Recycle sheep manure and wool fibre, it is good for the plants and you are been organic."

"Use crushed egg shells I the garden and that helps get rid of snails."

"Recycle cardboard egg boxes. Cut them out individually, plant seeds in them and in time they will rot away."

Answer to last months question:

On average, how many cans does each household use a year? The answer is, Every household uses about **600** steel cans a year.



Here are some more gardening tips for you:

Collect rainwater from your roof with a rain water diverter and water butt.

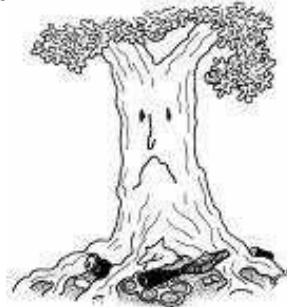
Watch the weather forecast and save washing-up water for gardening on dry days.

Keep flower beds weed free. Weeds starve the trees and shrubs of moisture.

Soak the soil around plant roots when watering or sink an empty plant pot beside each plant and fill it with water. It will soak straight to where it's needed. Avoid watering in the heat of the day.

Choose plants that thrive in dry conditions, like marigolds and cornflowers.

Give summer flowering bulbs a soaking when the flowers fade, to rebuild next years food store in the bulb.



Soak the roots of trees at planting, keep them watered through their first summer and their shade will help save water in the future. Drought very rarely kills healthy established trees.



If you If have ANY questions about recycling or helping our environment send your questions to:

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and we will find the answers for you.



Next months special feature will be about mobile phones, what

to do with them when you don't need your old one any more. You'll be surprised at the options available to you that can help the environment and make you money!

In the meantime, happy gardening and keep those hints and tips coming in. It's great getting them and passing on all your ideas to other newsletter readers.