

BOG has been considering what gardeners can do in order to make gardening activities more sustainable. This has been prompted by the urgency of trying to deal with global warming, environmental degradation and declining oil production. The simple slogan **‘Reduce, Reuse and Recycle’** and the desirability of **encouraging biodiversity** have much relevance to gardeners.



## CAN WE REDUCE?

Gardeners now have much more equipment than our ancestors; some of this equipment uses carbon based fuels. Do we need to acquire the latest gadgets?

Should we all take a more critical look at this equipment and its use? Would cutting the grass less frequently really be disastrous to the look of the garden? Perhaps we should reduce the size of the lawn.



Garden gas guzzlers

Production of bedding plants uses resources and the plants last only one season; perennials and shrubs are a ‘greener’ alternative

Can we turn off the patio heater and put on a jumper?

Where and how was the wood for the new garden seat grown?

## CAN WE REUSE?

Opportunities for reuse in the garden:-

Builders’ merchants now usually deliver sand and gravel in one ton ‘one trip’ bags. These can be reused in the garden in several ways: as containers for making leafmould, their material will control weeds if placed under gravel paths, converted into ‘tip sheets’ for collecting grass and hedge clippings.



Gravel bag reused as a leafmould bin

Plant pots can be reused to grow our own seedlings.

Yogurt pots can be converted into plant pots by cutting drainage holes in the base or they can also be cut into strips for use as plant labels

## CAN WE RECYCLE?

Organic gardeners have always recycled plant waste when they make compost.



A range of composting bins are available



Worm composting: the bin has been removed to show the made compost at bottom and unprocessed waste paper and food at top

## ARE WE SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity can be affected at two levels:

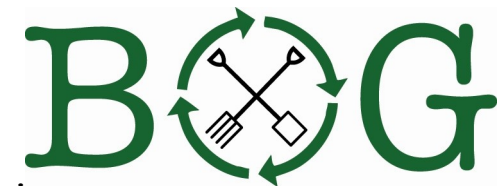
Gardeners can improve the number of species living in their own garden, for example by: constructing a pond, gardening organically, feeding birds and leaving an area to go wild to help wild species to survive.



A garden pond is both an amenity and a refuge for wildlife

Gardeners should also be aware that their activities may have an adverse effect on biodiversity elsewhere. For example the use of peat contributes to the reduction of wetland areas that are important habitats for wildlife. We should buy peat free composts.

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## Towards Greener Gardening

