

## **Don't Just Trash It!**

Gardeners personify creativity. They do this by how they plan the vegetable garden, lay out their flower beds, choose their color combinations and vary their hardscapes. Gardeners also excel as re-makers, re-purposers, re-users and up cyclers. For many, “trash to treasure” is a way of life. Before discarding anything, ask yourself if there could possibly be another use for it, either as a utilitarian object or as garden art. Use your ingenuity!

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Homemade garden art – many ideas are on the internet, especially on Pinterest, keeping in mind that beauty may be in the eye of the maker
  - Bottle Trees
  - Mosaic pavers inset with bits of glass, marbles, mirror, broken china, seashells
  - Hypertufa planters
- ❖ Uses for scrap lumber/old pallets
  - Stakes, trellises, compost bins, raised beds
- ❖ Used brick/stone
  - Keyhole garden
  - Pavers
- ❖ Scrap metal
  - Rebar stakes
  - Teepees for vining vegetables, flowering vines
- ❖ Old carpet
  - Line garden walkways with old carpet to suppress weeds and grass instead of buying mulch
  - Use old carpet padding as a cushion under a pond liner to prevent tears
- ❖ Lengths of old garden hose
  - Use to protect bark on young trees that need staking
- ❖ Fabric/panty hose – almost all textiles can be reused or recycled
  - Donate unused clothing
  - Use fabric strips for plant ties
  - A length of panty hose makes a great cover for a dryer vent to catch lint, particularly if it vents into a garden area
- ❖ Plastic
  - Bottles can be used to water potted plants
  - Make a self-watering grow box using a rectangular plastic container with a lid. See directions at [agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/how-to-make-a-grow-box](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/how-to-make-a-grow-box)

- ❖ Live Christmas Trees
  - Plant in your yard for future enjoyment
  - Recycle for mulch
  - Sink in lake or river for fish habitat
  
- ❖ Old tires
  - Can be chopped for mulch
  
- ❖ Old colander, metal or plastic
  - Make a hanging basket (may require more watering)

Hopefully, some of these suggestions have stimulated your thinking as to how you can reuse some of your waste rather than sending it to a landfill.

[America Recycles Day](#) is a nationally recognized day that celebrates and promotes recycling in the U.S. and this year falls on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. The simplest way to observe this holiday is just by looking at what you throw away and make a commitment to recycle more.