

Earth Kind:
Environmental Stewardship Program

Walker County LEAF-PRO projects support the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Earth Kind: Environmental Stewardship Program.

What are the guiding principles of Earth Kind?

Base your horticultural decisions on:

- A deep, abiding respect for the environment.
- The latest scientifically-sound, research-based information.
- Employ Earth Kind techniques of plant selection and culture to avoid pest problems before they occur.
- Use pesticides only as a last resort. If a pesticide becomes absolutely necessary, then select the most Earth Kind or environmentally responsible product available.
- Putting Earth Kind techniques into everyday practice will help your family, your business, your community and your environment. Remember, "Earth Kind to benefit human kind."



Recycling Information!

Walker County



Conservation of natural resources through recycling

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



LEAF-PRO project funding provided by: Houston-Galveston Area Council & Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



What is LEAF-PRO?

The LEAF-PRO project is an educational outreach effort designed to demonstrate and promote educated, ecologically responsible decision making through home landscape practices.

The objectives of LEAF-PRO are:

Protection of our environment,
Reduction of solid waste, and
Outreach education.

Recycling Recommendations!



The practice of recycling is simply a habit; perhaps it's not always convenient, nor is it easy, but it is necessary, and it is the right thing to do. Recycling, composting, soil and water conservation, and the responsible, safe use of pesticides are practices stressed by the Master Gardener program.

Texans throw away more than 29 million tons of trash (over 7 pounds of waste per person) every day! Historically 20% of solid waste generated by Texans consists of grass clippings, leaves and other landscape waste. It's time to make some lifestyle changes.



Common household waste items take a long time to break down in the environment!

Remember the 4 "Environmental R's": **REDUCE, RECYCLE, REUSE** and **REBUY!** Below are some tips which will help each of us become responsible citizens:

REDUCE

- Purchase supplies in bulk and/or those with less packaging.
- Rent or borrow tools and equipment for limited use.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn as mulch.
- Buy and use durable items instead of throwaways.
- Use cloth napkins and towels.

RECYCLE

- Purchase supplies that are packaged from recycled materials.
- Collect, separate and process all recyclable materials.
- Recycle household cardboard/boxes.
- Compost your yard waste!
- Clean & disinfect used plastic plant pots for reuse!



Properly composted yard waste can be utilized as mulch to prevent weeds and conserve moisture.

REUSE

- Use durable coffee mugs instead of Styrofoam.
- Donate old magazines to hospitals, nursing homes, etc.
- Donate surplus building materials.
- Reuse boxes for storage.
- Turn empty jars into storage containers.
- Utilize refillable pens and pencils.
- Participate in a paint collection and reuse programs.
- Use newspapers as a method of weed control under mulch.

REBUY

- Have a garage sale.
- Go to a garage/estate sale.
- Check the classified ads before purchasing a new item.
- Shop online for "reused" items.

Recycling, including composting, diverted 72 million tons of material away from landfills and incinerators in 2003. Reusing items (repairing, donating or selling) also reduces waste; when possible, reusing items is even better than recycling because the item doesn't need to be reprocessed before using again.

If you would like further information on anything contained in this publication, or to arrange for presentation of a program on recycling, please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Walker County office at (936) 435-2426

The LEAF-PRO project is an expansion of the Walker County Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens/Outdoor Learning Center. The facility demonstrates methods of practical solid waste management, landscape waste source reduction and recycling capabilities. These efforts support adult and youth educational projects utilizing Extension Earth Kind and Junior Master Gardener curriculum materials containing a positive solid waste recycling message.

Walker County, Texas is a naturally beautiful area and as stewards of our land, we should make every effort to conserve and protect our natural resources.