

TIPS FROM NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION STEWARDS
TIP OF THE MONTH:

February 2007

Energy saving light bulbs: Marilyn Barber

Compact florescent bulbs save energy, have long life, and give off the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs.

The Energy Store in Hollywood sells global warming energy saving devices such as bulbs, appliances, generators etc.

March 2007

Using recycled bags for groceries, instead of paper or plastic: Linda Avery

Cloth bags are now available in Publix and Whole Foods stores that are excellent for carrying groceries. They don't break, can carry a heavy load, can be washed and most importantly do not require destruction of trees or use of oil for producing paper and plastics.

May 2007

Laundry: Marilyn Barber

Use environmentally safe detergents, such as Ultra Ecos, an earth friendly soybased 100% biodegradable soap. Use cold water wash and combine light and dark clothing together using Color Catcher Cloth which absorbs loose dyes.

June 2007

Collecting rain water, saving water: Marilyn Barber

Stop leaks. Put a barrel under the downspout of the gutters or where rain runs off the roof. Place a bucket in the shower to collect water for other uses while waiting for hot water to arrive.

Great book-"The Weather Makers" Tim Flannery

July 2007

Calibrate your sprinkler system: Linda Avery

Maximize your limited time with water restrictions by calibrating your sprinkle system to put out $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of water per application. Set a small can (tuna, cat food) in various parts of the lawn. Run you system for the standard time. Measure the amount of water in the can with a ruler. If it less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, you need to increase the time. If it is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch you need to reduce the time. Twice a week at this level will be more enough water and will encourage deeper, healthier roots.

August 2007

Lawnmowers cause large amounts of pollution: Linda Avery

Gas powered lawn mowers and other gas powered lawn equipment contribute about 5% of the yearly pollution and considerably more than the average car. During one growing season all lawn equipment (blowers etc)

pollute as much as 14 old model cars do driving 12000 miles a year. Although electric powered mowers are available their impracticality (electric cords to run over!) is obvious. Battery operated mowers may become a product of the future. For now, however, we can do our part to reduce gas consumption and pollution (and noise pollution) by reducing the amount of sod being mowed. Replace this with ground cover, native grasses, or shrubs and you will also be using less irrigation water. There will be less need for fertilizers and pesticides and it will offer wildlife a place of refuge.

As for those grass clippings left on the lawn, don't forget that are free fertilizer. Grass clippings release nitrogen, so you can spend 25% less on fertilizer. Less synthetic fertilizer means **less nitrogen runoff** into waterways (too much nitrogen causes algae overgrowth, which kills aquatic life). [Compost Guide](#) - if you don't like the look of clippings on your lawn, you can still avoid sending them to the landfill by composting them. (The EPA estimates that yard waste such as grass clippings accounts for 18% of household trash.)