



September 2009

Here are 10 tips for your garden this spring from the latest book *True Green Life*.

	true green's top 10	done	my top 10	done
1	Create a bird haven in your garden. Plant a mixture of taller trees, shrubs and indigenous plants, keep the garden free of predators and pests and provide fresh water with a bird bath or pond.			
2	Restore the natural habitat in your own backyard by growing your region's native plants. You could also join one of many community groups dedicated to clearing the bush of invasive weeds and restoring natives.			
3	Work with the natural landscape to create a healthier garden. Make the most of water running off sloped areas and create ponds where water can seep back into the ground to replenish the water table.			
4	Grow your own organic produce. Opt for natural alternatives to insecticides – such as planting garlic or marigolds – to protect soil and water quality and reduce potential health risks.			
5	Recycle all your green waste to produce excellent natural fertiliser. Reduce your household waste by up to 40 per cent and improve your soil and the vigour of your plants.			
6	Create a water-efficient garden. Install a drip irrigation system or design your garden with plants suited to your soil and weather conditions.			
7	Garden lawnmowers can generate 40 times the emissions of a car. Swap your gas guzzling lawnmower for a manual or electric alternative.			
8	Cover your garden with mulch to reduce water loss through evaporation by up to 70 per cent. It also limits weed growth and can improve soil conditions.			
9	If you have the space, keep a couple of chooks. They provide fresh free-range eggs, help keep pests at bay, and generate around 100kg of fantastic organic fertiliser every year.			
10	Join the United Nations Environment Program's Billion Tree campaign. Planting trees is an easy way to reduce the CO ² in our atmosphere and rehabilitate tired land.			

remember, when you're achieved your top 10, revisit true green and select another 10