

Gardening As If the World Depends On It

(Because it does)

1. Plant more plants

Plant diverse species, densely, in layers (groundcover through trees).

Plants and their roots sequester carbon, retain water, improve soil, change sunlight into food for all other life, and are the essential foundation of all ecosystems.



2. Think locally

Aim for a majority of native plants, the more local the better.

Many birds, insects, and animals depend on the native plants they are adapted to, and native plants are generally best adapted to your area.

3. Don't be too tidy

Leave spaces for wildlife.

Unmown grasses and woody debris piles are vital habitat, bare soil houses ground-nesting bees, standing dead vegetation and seed heads provide winter food and refuge.

4. Use water wisely

Keep it on site where possible, and provide water for wildlife.

Group plants according to their water needs, and include areas that can thrive with little or no water.

5. Don't use insecticides

Keep herbicides to a minimum.

A healthy, varied ecosystem is resilient against most insect pests without interference.

6. Accept the imperfect

Any garden is better than no garden.

Gardening is great for your mental and physical health, as well as the planet, so just do it, and don't stress over the details.

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