

# Easy Steps to Healing the Earth One Landscape at a Time



## **Reduce lawn size by increasing native planting**

- Why?
  - Lawn offers a vast space for improving our environmental stewardship.
  - Lawn does not supply food or habitat for wildlife as our native plants do.
  - Lawn chemical runoff contaminates our water.
- Learn More:
  - <https://www.healthyyards.org/professionals/why-less-lawn/>
  - <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-wildlife/about/native-plants>
  - [https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/marc\\_lawnchemicals.pdf](https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/marc_lawnchemicals.pdf)

## **Remove invasive species from your yard**

- Why?
  - Invasive plants escape into the wild. These plants choke out the native plants that feed the wildlife.
- Learn More:
  - [https://forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/Invasive\\_Species.aspx](https://forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/Invasive_Species.aspx)

## **Leave the Leaves**

- Why?
  - Leaves provide winter habitat for lightning bugs, butterflies, and other creatures. In addition, removing the leaves increases erosion, soil compaction and landfill waste.
- Learn More:
  - <https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>

## **Manage Pests Sustainably**

- Why?
  - Spraying for mosquito control kills pollinators.
- Learn More:
  - Standing water management (using BTI or weekly dumping) targets mosquitos during the vulnerable larval stage.
  - <https://sidewalknature.com/2022/05/08/mosquito-bucket-of-doom/>

### References:

Doug Tallamy: [Nature's Best Hope](https://www.nature.org/usa/conservation/nature-s-best-hope), [homegrownnationalpark.org](https://homegrownnationalpark.org)

Forest Service USDA: [https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/2015/ja\\_2015\\_sun\\_003.pdf](https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/2015/ja_2015_sun_003.pdf)