

Grab Bag

10 ways to use recycled materials in landscapes

- ① Facilitate deep root growth and watering: staking a recycled plastic pipe deep into the ground near the plants. Leave some of the recycled plastic piping exposed; fill with water.
- ② Amend and renew topsoil with compost, which adds nutrients and holds moisture and water better than unamended soil.
- ③ Build raised flower beds from recycled plastic lumber. Recycled plastic lumber will not decay and does not need to be stained or treated.
- ④ Mix polystyrene packing 'peanuts' with potting soil for larger containers in urban or rooftop container gardens. The 'peanuts' create pore spaces for water and air.
- ⑤ Use tiles of recycled glass to accent a garden patio floor.
- ⑥ Substitute recycled plastic plant and tree stakes for wooden stakes.
- ⑦ Use edging material for clean lines in your garden beds and walkways.
- ⑧ Combine broken concrete, old bricks, composite lumber scraps and natural stone to form walls with texture and character around the garden.
- ⑨ Plan outdoor seating within a garden as a reprieve for the gardener and guests,



RECYCLED PLASTICS MAKE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN PRODUCTS

"There are many ways recycled plastics and other materials can make your garden greener," says Joyce F. Gagnon, a specialist in the use of recycled products in landscapes and gardens. As a former marketing specialist for the King County Commission for Marketing Recyclable materials in Seattle, Gagnon worked for five years to help landscape architects and designers used recycled products. Her consulting firm, INCognito, is based in Seattle. The photo shown uses plastics as accents and borders. Gagnon offers 10 tips for making gardens more adaptable for recycled plastics, which we list at left.

and as a better viewing point for the surrounding landscape. Benches and lawn furniture made from recycled plastic lumber are more durable than those made of wood, Gagnon says, and resist mold, mildew or damage from animals or insects.

- ⑩ Experiment with texture, color and height in the garden, whether with plantings, furnishings or decorative objects.

—Joyce F. Gagnon

Ryan Tripp completes trek to D.C. on mower, sets world record

12-year old Ryan Tripp of Beaver, Utah, has completed his 3100-mile ride to Washington D.C. Why is this special news? Because Tripp made the journey on a Walker Model T lawn mower. In so doing, he broke the previous *Guinness Book of World Records*' 3034-mile mower ride. Tripp went on the 42-day ride on behalf of Whitney Pender, an infant girl in need for a liver transplant.

Grab Bag features brief observations and prognostications throughout the green industry. If you have an unusual photo or comment you'd like to share with us, please send it in...