5 Tips For Capturing Carbon in Your Home Garden

Reduce Synthetic Fertilizers

Increasing carbon sequestration first requires reduction of carbon heavy products in our gardens and our lawns. One of these carbon heavy products is synthetic fertilizer. These fertilizers not only use loads of carbon in their production but can also runoff into local water bodies! Alternatives such as compost can greatly reduce your carbon footprint!









Plant Native Perennials

Increase the carbon in your garden soils by planting native species. Most of these species require very little care, and their root systems help hold rainwater and increase soil health. Consider planting native perennials in your home garden such as those listed in our presentation.

Select Plants High in Biomass

In addition to native trees and shrubs, native grasses can store large amounts of carbon above and below ground in their roots. Consider planting little or big bluestem or other native grasses in your yard. Many of these can be purchased at your local gardening store.

Utilize Local Resources

In addition to home compost fertilizer, local city available wood chips and installing a rainwater harvest system, can reduce energy usage while helping to care for your trees, garden and lawn.

Compost Food and Yard Waste

Composting can reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere by 2.1-3.1 gigatonnes¹, just by limiting methane emitted by food waste in landfills (this is equal to driving over 5.3 billion miles²).

Creating your own compost bin is easy! Visit nrcs.usda.gov and search "composting" for step by step instructions!

Additional Resources

Northfield Gardening Club

University of Minnesota Extension Native Species and Prairie Information Northfield Curbside Composting

Environmental Protection Agency: EPA.gov/recycling/composting Northfield Compost Site for local materials



