

Living Green Expo

May 2–3 | State Fairgrounds | Free

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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The Living Green Expo Features A New Outdoor Living Area Learn How To Save Money And Green Your Yard And Patio

Minnesota State Fair Grounds
Saint Paul, Minn.
May 2-3, 2009 Free Admission
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Minnesota weather limits the amount of time we spend in our yards throughout the year, but being outdoors is something we value. There are ways to have a beautiful yard that will save you money and help protect natural resources. This year the Living Green Expo features an Outdoor Living area in addition to other exhibitors and workshops that can help you be green in your back yard or patio.

Protect water quality and reduce water use

When it rains, water runs off our roofs and lawns and into a stormwater sewer that ends up in one of our lakes, streams or rivers. To keep the debris and chemicals from running off with the water, you can use a rain barrel to collect rainwater and use for watering your garden and flower beds, or plant a pretty rain garden that attracts butterflies. These workshops and exhibitors will have more tips and products that can help you protect water quality.

- **Organic Lawn and Landscape Care**, Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m., presented by Bob Dahm, Organic Bob. Organic lawn and landscape care for anyone who wants to do it themselves. We will discuss maintenance schedules, weed control, where to purchase supplies and compost “tea.”
- **Porous Paving Options**, Sunday, May 3 at 3:30 p.m., presented by Matt Strand of Borgert Products Inc. This workshop designed to educate you about porous pavement options, where you can purchase porous pavers, options for installation and the environmental benefits.
- **Rain gardens: Benefits, Design, and Installation**, Sunday, May 3 at 12:30 p.m. presented by Becky Rice of Metro Blooms. Metro Blooms’ do-it-yourself approach puts rain gardening in the hands of gardeners and non-gardeners alike. Discussion will focus on benefits of rain gardens, site analysis and rain garden design principles.

- **Barrel Depot**, Barrel Depot supplies recycled oak wine barrels for rain barrels, tables, and more. They also sell a rain barrel converter kit and assembled rain barrels. www.barreldepot.com.
- **Planting for Clean Water Program**, presented by Blue Thumb. The program makes it easy for residents to protect water by planting native gardens, rain gardens, and shorelines. www.bluethumb.org.
- **CFC Rainbarrel and Seamless Gutter Company**, a local manufacturer of unique and decorative rainbarrels. Attractive enough to be conversation pieces in the front yard or anywhere. www.minneapolisrainbarrel.com.

Turn your food waste into black gold

Reduce waste collecting table scraps in a compost bin to use on gardens as fertilizer. Come to the Living Green Expo to find out more about backyard composting.

- **Composting 101**, Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 p.m. presented by Tom Hutsell of the Ramsey County Master Gardeners. Come for a discussion about composting, covering the uses of compost, necessary ingredients, management of the compost pile and potential problems.

Here are some other great yard resources at the Expo.

- By the Yard Inc. — Maintenance-free outdoor furniture made from recycled plastic milk jugs, designed to last a lifetime. www.bytheyard.net.
- EnergyScapes, Inc. — Transform lawns into beautiful landscapes featuring native plants and local materials using human power! www.energyscapes.com.
- Giving Tree Gardens — Giving Tree Gardens is a locally owned, full service organic gardening company. www.gtgardens.com.
- Hydroseeding by Clever Name Contracting LLC — This planting method mixes seed, fiber mulch, tackifier and water in a tank. The mix is then sprayed on soil to inhibit erosion and protect germinating seeds. www.CleverNameContracting.com.
- Landscape Alternatives Inc. — This nursery features more than 200 species of native plants for sun, shade, wet, dry and everywhere in between! www.landscapealternatives.com.

The Living Green Expo is a free annual event taking place at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Grandstand the weekend of May 2-3, 2009. The Expo provides information and products to help Minnesotans improve the environmental and social impacts of their day-to-day living. The Living Green Expo features over 270 exhibitors of products, services, and information, along with more than, 62 workshops on a variety of sustainability and green living topics. Expo attractions include music, food, demonstrations, and activities for the whole family. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency leads a collaboration of governmental, nonprofit, and business organizations to produce the Living Green Expo. For more information visit www.LivingGreen.org.

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