

## How Eco-Friendly is your Garden?

Use this quick quiz to help you find out. Tick the box on the right side of each description that best depicts your gardening style. Add up all the ticks on each side. If you have more ticks on the EFG column you should be well on your way towards creating an eco-friendly garden. If you have more ticks on the NSEF column you need to make some adjustments to your gardening methods before your garden eco-system begins to really thrive. Use this table as a guide to highlight areas you need to work on to improve the way your garden eco-system functions.

Eco-friendly Garden (EFG)	tick	Not So Eco-friendly (NSEF)	tick
I think about Nature's needs when I plan my garden.		I never think about Nature's needs when planning my garden.	
I use compost, mulch, companion planting or compost teas to improve soil conditions.		I think of soil as inert, lifeless 'dirt'. I use chemical fertilizers to grow my plants.	
I avoid using pesticides as much as possible, and prefer natural methods of pest control.		I control pests and diseases with regular chemical spraying.	
I plan my garden around local environmental conditions.		Local environmental conditions make very little difference to the way I plan or manage my garden.	
I recycle as much as possible in my garden.		I don't think much about recycling.	
I plan my garden to capture as much rainwater as possible and use this to water my garden when it is very dry.		When it rains, much of the rainwater rushes off and away from my garden.	
I seldom or never dig over the soil in my garden.		I often dig my beds over.	
There is very little bare soil in my garden. It is all covered over with plants, gravel or mulch.		There are large areas of bare soil in my garden and between the plants in my garden.	
I grow plants that improve the way my garden eco-system functions.		I never think about the garden's eco-system when I choose plants for the garden.	
I try to grow a wide variety of different plants in the garden,		I prefer massed plantings of a very limited variety of plants.	
My garden is planned so that I have to water as little as possible. Most, or all, of my garden can survive on rainfall.		My garden could not survive without extensive irrigation.	
I try and encourage wildlife into the garden by growing wildlife friendly plants.		I don't like having wildlife in my garden and do little to encourage it.	
I grow many local native plants.		I have very few, or no, local native plants in my garden.	
I avoid using toxic chemicals on my garden.		I regularly use pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers.	
I grow some of my own organic food.		I don't grow any of my own food.	

*This quiz is an extract from the ebook **An Ecological Gardeners Handbook** by Valerie Payn*