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NEWS RELEASE

Recycled Plastics in the Garden—It's All About The “Green”



Toronto, ON, June 25, 2013 – Our lawns and gardens seem to be all about the “green” ...

We spend a lot of green on our lawns and gardens—over \$2 billion a year in Canada. We grow a lot of greens—nearly a third of us grow food in our gardens. And many companies now make outdoor gardening products with recycled plastics—this contributes to sustainability and makes our lawns and gardens a bit greener.

A Greener Landscape Ahead

Plastics for years have been replacing other materials in lawn and garden products due to their versatility, durability and low maintenance—plus they resist rotting and shattering, so we can spend more time gardening and less on maintenance, repair, and replacement. And today when we recycle our everyday household plastics, some of them are turned into practical products for our lawns and gardens.

For example, many companies make [composite lumber](#) with recycled HDPE plastic, the type used to make milk jugs and most plastic bags and film. This durable lumber looks pretty much like wood, but the plastic makes it extremely durable and nearly maintenance-free. And boring insects have no interest in plastics. Used to [build decks, fences, railings](#) and [swimming pool enclosures](#), lumber made with recycled plastics not only looks great and lasts a long time—it also keeps this valuable material out of landfills.

Manufacturers also are increasingly using recycled plastics for landscaping products. For example, [landscape pavers](#) made with recycled plastics are used to create patios, decks, walkways and other outdoor areas. They can be installed more quickly than traditional pavers, and each 1,000 square feet of pavers saves 500 scrap tires and 15,000 plastic bottles from

landfills, according to a [manufacturer](#). They also use 94 percent less energy and release 96 percent less CO² in manufacturing than concrete alternatives.

[Landscape edging](#) made with recycled polypropylene plastic—the kind often used for yogurt cups and bottle caps—won't "rot, fade, crack, splinter, or warp," according to its manufacturer. And [planter boxes](#) made with recycled plastics "maintain colour and shape ... without weathering, warping, deteriorating, rotting or splintering" ... season after season. More gardening—less maintenance.

Greener Tools and Planters

Many essential gardening tools also are made with recycled plastics, including wheelbarrows, compost bins, watering cans, pots, trays, tools, hoses, rain barrels and more. And some companies now use recycled plastics to make [planters](#), stylish [outdoor furniture](#), and other decorative garden accessories. Many of these durable, weather-resistant products are made to stay outdoors year round.

Where space is tight, planters and hanging pots made with recycled plastics from used beverage bottles can create vertical flower gardens and add some food plants almost anywhere—indoors and out. These planters don't rust, and they can be reused again and again.

Contribute to a Greener Garden

Like a growing number of everyday plastic products—from plastic bags to shampoo bottles—the plastic pots and trays we use in gardening today can be recycled in many places.

- Many Canadian households have access to a [recycling program](#) that accepts garden pots and trays.
- Some large retailers, such as Lowe's and Home Depot, accept used plastic pots at their stores, where they either are reused or sent to recycling facilities. Some even come back as new pots.

Plastics—and more recently recycled plastics—are staking a claim in our lawns and gardens. For good reason. In the often rain soaked, sun scorched, insect ridden environment of our lawns and gardens, plastics make it possible to spend more time enjoying the fruits of our labour—often while contributing to sustainability.

Today's intelligent plastics are vital to the modern world. These materials enhance our lifestyles, our economy and the environment. For more information visit www.intelligentplastics.ca.

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The Canadian Plastics Industry Association is the national voice of Canada's plastics industry, representing the interests of processors, material suppliers, equipment manufacturers and brand owners across the country.

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