Go "green" for spring

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powered engines emit more than 10 times the hydrocarbons per amount of gas burned than auto engines. But reel mowers are

fuel-free and less expensive than gas-powered mowers. Planet Natural also notes that reel mowers snip grass like scissors, leaving finer trimmings that can serve as nourishing, weed-deterring mulch for yards.

• Water at the right times

Homeowners who water their lawns and gardens at the right time of day can help the planet and reduce their energy bills. As spring gradually gives way to summer, temperatures typically rise. Watering during the coolest times of the day means less water will be lost to evaporation, ensuring water-needy

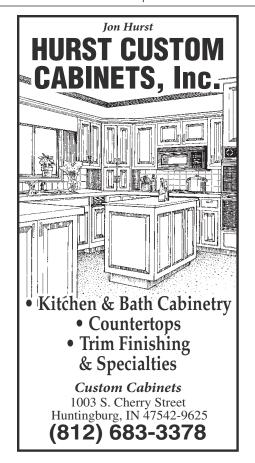
soil will get all it needs to help lawns and gardens thrive. Early morning watering before the sun reaches its midday peak and/ or evening watering as the sun is setting are typically great times to water lawns and gardens, rather than when temperatures are at their hottest.

• Use a rain barrel.

Rain barrels provide another great way to conserve water while tending to lawns and gardens. Rain barrels collect and store rain water from roofs and downspouts, keeping water from washing into sewage systems where it can't be put to good use. Water collected in rain barrels can be used in various ways. Many homeowners can use water from rain barrels to water their lawns, gardens and houseplants, saving money on their water bills along the way.

Spring gardening season provides a great opportunity for lawn and garden enthusiasts to embrace a variety of

eco-friendly practices that can save them money and protect the planet.



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1325 Main Street Ferdinand

812-630-4398

Michelle Brockman Brockman@psci.net www.talktobrockman.com



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