

# Green Garden Checklist

By Jake R Brady

## ☐ Materials

- ☐ If choosing stone, make sure stone is sourced from quarries that have been inspected and approved.
- ☐ Look to see whether existing materials can be re-used.
- ☐ If you don't want to use old material, ask around if there is anyone who would like to get some.
- ☐ Make sure all timber come with a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate.
- ☐ Try to buy charcoal for barbecues from a sustainable source that help restore woodland.
- ☐ Instead of concrete blocks, use earth-rammed walls where excavations of sub-soil can be used to build free-standing or covered structures.

## ☐ Water

- ☐ Instal an irrigation system.
- ☐ Collect rainwater.
- ☐ Use plants that have a measure of drought tolerance such as herbs or prairie.
- ☐ Bare soil mulched with well-rotted compost or wood chippings will prevent water loss.
- ☐ Water in the cool of the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation losses.
- ☐ Introduce decking, gravel, paving and cobbles features as an alternative to water guzzling lawns.
- ☐ Use mulches such as wood chips, bark and gravel to help prevent water evaporation.

## ☐ Recycle

- ☐ Have a compost heap at home or make sure your waste is recycled by either the council or a friend.
- ☐ Use green manures to feed the soil.
- ☐ Earth which has been dug out can be recycled to form an 'eco mound' to house a garden building.