

SPECIAL ISSUE! 30 EASY DIY PROJECTS

# BIRDS & BLOOMS

creative ideas  
to recycle  
and save



#1

BEAUTY IN YOUR OWN

YARD

BIRD & GARDEN  
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IN AMERICA

extra

AMERICA'S FAVORITE  
GARDENERS REVEAL  
THEIR *secrets*



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- CREATE ONE-OF-A-KIND BIRDHOUSES
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# Thrifty Gardener Q&A

*with Alan Luxmore*

## **What's your favorite way to recycle in the garden?**

Any to-go container from a restaurant is great for garden organizing. I use them to keep my shed organized, whether it's for hardware or gardening. I put screws, nuts, bolts, seeds, etc., in them and then label them with a Sharpie marker.

## **What's your best tip for choosing plants wisely to save money?**

Know your goals. Are you looking for a yard that's maintenance-free, or are you looking for something showy that may demand more attention? Knowing what you're trying to achieve will help you spend money in the right places.

## **What's the quirkiest thing you've seen reused in the garden?**

I once saw a community garden near Palo Alto, California, where someone used wine bottles to mark off their section of the plot. That's one garden border that was fun from inception to completion! (Look for a sample of this in our special section.)

## **What's a good tip you've learned from a thrifty gardener, and who was it?**

One of my mentors, my grandfather, would take old T-shirts, cut them into strips and use them to tie tomato vines to a post. This would keep the tomatoes from growing on the ground, which prevented rot caused by moist soil and insects.

*Alan Luxmore hosts the A&E cable show Fix This Yard. He comes from a family of homebuilders and loves helping people get the most from their backyards.*

