Eco-friendly goods will grow on you - Entertaining - NJ.com

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Eco-friendly goods will grow on you
by Kimberly L. Jackson/The Star-Ledger
Friday April 11, 2008, 12:31 PM

If you’ve ever hosted a big backyard party, you know that such events can generate bags full of waste. If you want to cut down on how much you throw away -- and make yours a more eco-friendly the fete -- here are a few options to help.

What makes these paper plates sweet is that they are made of sugarcane fiber called Bagasse. You can compost plates, cups and bowls made of the material without worry that there will be any chemical byproducts leaching into the soil. Bagasse biodegrades in 90 days or less, according to the maker. Packs of 8 are $2.25 for 6-inch plates to $6.50 for a 10-inch divided plates at worldcentric.org.

The company also sells biodegradable food storage bags, straws and cutlery.

Plant them and they will grow. Greeting cards, invitations and wedding favors from Botanical PaperWorks go beyond green to include the colors of wildflowers whose seeds are embedded in the paper. Imagine perennial flowers returning each year as a lovely and waste-free reminder of your special day. Butterflies in Flight favors are $1.65 each at botanicalpaperworks.com or (877) 956-7393.

Cuisinart’s GreenGourmet is a new line of nonstick cookware made with a water-based ceramic coating that eliminates chemicals used in traditional non-stick coatings. This 11-inch square grill pan is $59.99 at Bed Bath and Beyond stores, bedbathandbeyond.com or (800) 462-3966.

Twist renewable tree-fiber sponges are a reusable alternative to paper towels, and so cute and cheerful that you might more easily get help with after-party cleanup. The loofah-back style is made for pot-scrubbing -- or exfoliating, if you ask us. Eco bonus: instructions show how to fold the recycled cardboard packaging into a bird feeder (see them at twisteclean.com). Sponges are $2-$5 at peacefulcompany.com.

Recycled glass takes on a sensuous form in molded serving bowls. Fill them with organic fruit for your Earth Day party. $15 and $25 each at Pier 1 Imports stores.
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