



IS MAKING THE GRASS EVEN GREENER!

DID YOU KNOW: Nitrate and phosphate on lawns and landscapes flow into lakes and streams, causing algae blooms that use up oxygen, killing aquatic life and reducing water quality.

SOLUTION: Use slow release, non-soluble organic fertilizers to feed your lawn and landscape slowly throughout the season.



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DID YOU KNOW: That established organic lawns are drought resistant due to their dense turf and deep roots.

SOLUTION: The goal of an organic lawn is to have Nature provide all the water it needs. If you must water, it's best in the early morning. Explore rain harvesting to reuse water on your site.



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DID YOU KNOW: Turf grasses need aerated soil in order to grow healthy, deep roots.

SOLUTION: Aerate your lawn if it hasn't been done in a few seasons and the soil is hard, dry and compacted. It's best to do prior to applying soil amendments and following weed season in the fall.



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DID YOU KNOW: A National Cancer Institute study reports a positive association with an owner's use of the popular crabgrass killer 2,4-D and their pet dog's chances of getting cancer.

SOLUTION: Weeds are indicators of poor soil health and improper watering, mowing and fertilizing practices. Dense turf is the best defense and will naturally crowd out weeds. Plant more grass to outcompete the weeds.



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DID YOU KNOW: Proper mowing practices are essential to a healthy lawn.

SOLUTION: Keep the grass high to naturally shade out weeds and protect from drought. Avoid cutting off more than one inch of grass blade at a time. Your grass should still look green after a mow. If you hire a mowing contractor tell them how you want it mowed.



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DID YOU KNOW: The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in a study of 9,282 people nationwide, found pesticides in 100% of the people who had both blood and urine tested. The average person carried 13 of 23 pesticides tested.

SOLUTION: Choose not to use pesticides. Scout for weeds and mechanically remove them. Re-seed and top dress with compost to improve soil health. Consider planting something other than grass in areas where it doesn't seem to grow easily.



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DID YOU KNOW: Lawns need more than just fertilizer.

SOLUTION: A healthy lawn begins with healthy soil. A good place to start each season is with a soil test. Contact UMASS Soil lab

www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest

Request recommendations for organic lawn care. Ideal lawn pH is 6.5-7.0



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DID YOU KNOW: Pesticides disrupt the natural balance of life in the soil, killing microbial life, beneficial insects and birds that work to keep disease and insect problems in check.

SOLUTION: Use the biological controls Beneficial Nematodes for grubs. They also reduce ticks and are beneficial to your lawn, enhancing the availability of necessary nutrients.



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DID YOU KNOW: You should ALWAYS leave the clippings on your lawn each time you mow.

SOLUTION: Grass clippings contain valuable nutrients that decompose and put organic matter back into your soil. It's like your naturally fertilizing every time you mow.



www.safegroundlandcare.com



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DID YOU KNOW: Pesticides and fertilizer runoff are one of the top three sources of water pollution.

SOLUTION: Eliminate the use of pesticides. Only use OMRI Certified non-soluble, slow release organic fertilizer that break down slowly, feeding lawn throughout the season. Also, keep nitrogen rich grass clippings on your lawn so they don't pollute storm water.



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DID YOU KNOW: Proper mowing height can naturally reduce the incidences of weeds in your lawn.

SOLUTION: Weeds like the sun. Aside from your first spring mowing at 2 inches, mowing for the rest of the season should be 3 inches – 3 ½". Keep your grass high to shade them and protect against drought.



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DID YOU KNOW: Did you know you could be recycling on your lawn.

SOLUTION: You should ALWAYS leave the clippings on your lawn by mowing with a mulching mower. Grass clippings contain valuable nutrients that decompose and put organic matter back into your soil. Naturally fertilize by recycling nutrients on your lawn.



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