



Good Growing Neighbours

We're growing healthier by the yard

Did you know you can have a lush, healthy lawn that is pesticide free? Practice these **10 simple steps** to create a healthier environment by eliminating or reducing your pesticide use.

10 tips for a healthy lawn

- 1 Begin with healthy soil** Add compost for its nutrient value and to improve your soil's water holding capacity.
- 2 Dethatch** Remove thatch in the spring so that water, air and nutrients can get into your lawn.
- 3 Mow high** Mow to about 6 cm (2 1/2 inches) to improve your lawn's moisture retention and root growth.
- 4 Use a Mulching Mower** Grass clippings are a great source of natural nitrogen.
- 5 Water the roots** Lawns require only 2.5 cm (1 inch) of water per week.
- 6 Develop tolerance** A few weeds will not hurt your lawn.
- 7 Let your lawn breathe** Aerating helps to get water, nutrients and oxygen to the roots of the grass.
- 8 Top dress & fertilize** Add a thin layer of compost or topsoil, grass seed and slow release fertilizer.
- 9 Crowd out the weeds** Healthy lawns are less likely to have weed problems.
- 10 Use low maintenance plants** A combination of trees, shrubs, perennials, ground covers and annuals promotes biodiversity in your yard.

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Growing healthier by the yard



Take a grass roots approach to lawn care this season by following these Good Growing Lawn Care Tips. You can eliminate or reduce pesticide use - which means a healthier environment.

Spring Lawn Care Tips

It's that time of year when we get to work in our yards and gardens.

Aerate

If the lawn is sparse and growing poorly or you notice that water pools in some areas, your soil is compacted. Aeration brings oxygen and nutrients down to the roots for better growth.

Dethatch

For most lawns, remove winter thatch with a fan rake. For lawns with heavy excess thatch, a mechanical dethatcher (power rake) may be used. Mechanical dethatching does not need to be done every year.

Fertilize

When choosing a fertilizer, consider using compost. Compost is an excellent organic fertilizer containing nutrients that do not leach into ground water.

If your preference is synthetic fertilizers, use a slow release fertilizer that breaks down slowly to feed your lawn over a longer period thus reducing runoff and nutrients being leached.

Do not apply synthetic fertilizers until the soil temperature of the lawn is above 20 celsius

(mid May) as the grass will not absorb nutrients and the fertilizer will runoff with precipitation. If you must use a pesticide, use a pre-mixed herbicide and spot spray weeds.

Advantages of Organic Fertilizers

- No leaching or runoff (into our rivers and lakes)
- Promotes beneficial bacteria growth
- Non burning, non toxic and non corrosive
- Provides organic matter and promotes water retention
- Slow, steady growth as opposed to rapid growth

Control weeds

Control weeds by **hand digging** or **spot treating** with chemical weed control products. Treating the entire lawn with herbicide is not recommended.

Healthy Soil

Top dress with compost and you'll be off to a great start. Healthy lawns start with healthy soil.



TIPS

Using compost as fertilizer is an organic way to promote healthy soil which means a healthy lawn.

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