

ORGANIC LAWN CARE, EARTH'S WAY

According to the national wildlife federation:

- 30% of water used on the east coast goes to watering our lawns.
- 18% of our municipal solid waste is composed of yard waste.
- The average suburban lawn received 10 times as much chemical pesticide per acre as farmland.
- Over 70 million tons of fertilizers and pesticides are applied to residential lawns and gardens annually.
- Where pesticides are used 80% of earthworms are killed. Earthworms are vital to our soils health.

Much of the environmental cost associated with lawn care can be avoided.

- 1) Make sure that water drains properly.
- 2) Trim trees and shrubs to increase light and air flow.
- 3) Add organic matter to improve soil.
- 4) Test your soils pH, between 6 and 6.5 are ideal for lawns.
- 5) Thoroughly rake and aerate lawn to improve flow of oxygen to its rooting system.
- 6) Establish and stick to a fertilizing schedule.
- 7) Do not use chemicals. If you must use sparingly.
- 8) Choose the right grass seed for your specific area.
- 9) Mow your lawn at 2.5 to 3 inches. This will help prevent the growth of crabgrass chickweed spurge and other low growing lawn weeds.
- 10) Water your lawn thoroughly and never after 3 pm.
- 11) When lawn weeds occur. Remove by pulling or spot spraying.
- 12) Check lawn often for disease and insects.
- 13) Keep your lawn mower blade sharpened.
- 14) With new federal and state laws the time is now.

The only way to reduce a dependence on chemical fertilizers is to develop a healthy lawn, which is naturally resistant to weeds insects and diseases. Mother Earth will thank you and so will your children.