

EASY STEPS TO CREATING A GREEN LAWN

An Environmentally
Friendly Lawn Care Guide

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You want to have a green lawn don't you?

But do you want to have a **"green"** lawn?

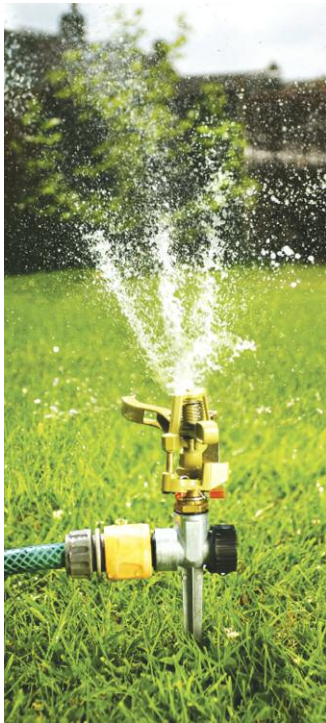


With a ban on the cosmetic use of pesticide on lawns and gardens in place, it is a good time to start thinking about how we take care of our lawns.

This guide will help you grow a green lawn the "green" way that may even end up saving you some green.

CUTTING MY LAWN

- The best mowing height is 6.5 to 7 cm.
- Each time you mow, alternate the direction to reduce build-up of grass clippings.
- Make sure your blades are sharp — dull blades tear grass and can make it more prone to disease.
- Leave your grass clippings on the lawn — they will provide some nutrients back to the growing grass.
- Cut grass less often during hot weather.
- Let your lawn go dormant — yes, it will turn brown, but will green up after a rainfall.



WATERING MY LAWN

- Let the lawn soak up 1 inch of water, once a week, early in the morning, or in the evening.
- To measure an inch, place an empty tuna can under the sprinkler and stop when it fills up.
- To check if water is being absorbed, push a spade into the lawn and check for water penetration. The ideal depth is 10 to 15 cm.

SEEDING MY LAWN

- Choose drought tolerant grass seed, using a seed mixture rather than one variety.
- Overseed the lawn in spring or fall. A thick lawn will crowd out weeds.
- When seeding by hand, scatter half the seeds while walking in one direction, and half at right angles to the first direction, to make sure you cover the whole area.

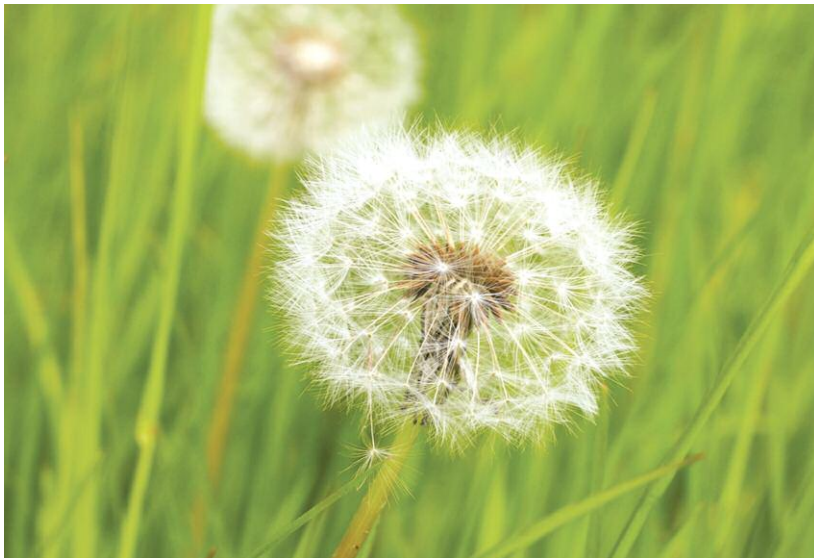
HOW DO I FERTILIZE MY LAWN?

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to return nutrients to the soil. This can supply up to 30% of your lawn's fertilizer needs and helps retain moisture.
- Once a year, in the spring or fall, apply a top layer of organic fertilizer such as the following:
 - compost
 - corn gluten meal
 - fertilizers containing dehydrated manure, fish emulsion, seaweed, blood or bonemeal
 - compost tea (combine compost and water in a bucket and agitate once a day for a few days)



MAKING MY LAWN PESTICIDE FREE

- Accept some weeds in your lawn or control weeds and insects naturally.
- Dig out weeds and their roots by hand.
- Pour boiling water on weeds growing between patio stones.
- Replace some grass with native plants, such as wildflowers, shrubs and trees that are adapted to grow in local conditions that generally do well with no pesticides at all.
- Corn gluten meal, useful as a fertilizer, also inhibits the growth of weeds. Since it kills roots of sprouting seedlings (grass and weeds), do not use on a newly seeded lawn.
- If pests begin to threaten the health of your lawn, consider using a Health Canada approved product that is a lower risk to your health and the environment.



THATCH AND INSECT CONTROL

- To prevent thatch aerate, rake briskly, water properly and don't over-fertilize.
- Aerate your lawn once a year by removing small plugs of earth to allow air and water to get to roots.
- Grubs (larvae) such as the June Beetle or European Chafer feed on grass roots, killing the grass and creating bare spots:
 - Catching adults and disposing of them will reduce the mating population
 - An application of beneficial nematodes (microscopic worms) in spring and/or fall is a natural way to treat and prevent grub infestation

So you see keeping a green lawn is not as difficult as you may think. Hopefully these simple solutions will help you out.