



BE GREEN TO YOUR LAWN

Poor lawn care practices can cause pollution, lead to a low quality lawn, and allow weeds, insects and diseases to thrive

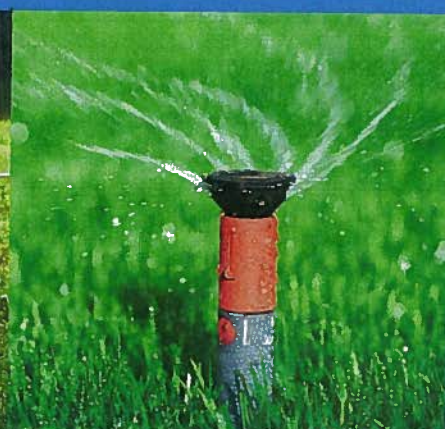
Win the lawn battle.
Follow good practices for a healthy lawn and a healthy environment

BENEFITS

- ▶ Healthy lawn without lots of weeds, insects or diseases
- ▶ Conserve and protect water resources
- ▶ Minimize pesticide use
- ▶ Save time and money

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ▶ Mow high with a sharp blade
- ▶ Fertilize and water properly
- ▶ Identify problems and use non-chemical methods when possible



WHAT YOU CAN DO



Mowing

Mowing practices make a difference in your lawn's looks, health and the environment

- **Mow high (to 3 + inches in summer); cut not more than 1/3 off the top at a time**
Encourages deep roots and healthy grass that withstands drought and minimizes weeds
- **Mow with a sharp blade**
Sharpen every 14 hours of mowing, more often if you hit rocks and sticks; Sharp blades use less energy, give a cleaner cut and reduce disease potential
- **Leave clippings on the lawn**
Clippings of 1" or less break down quickly, provide nutrients, and improve soil where roots grow

Watering and Fertilizing

Over watering and fertilizing can pollute waterways. Protect water resources, reduce your water and fertilizer bills, and still be green to your lawn

- **Conserve water. Let your lawn go dormant in summer**
Most established lawns need just ¼" to ½" of water (or rain) every 2-4 weeks to stay alive during dormancy. They green up in cooler weather
- **If you don't let your lawn go dormant, water deeply and early in the day**
Watering in the morning minimizes evaporation, and reduces disease potential; Lawns need 1" of water per week to encourage deep roots that withstand drought
- **Learn about fertilizer choices & application timing**
Avoid fertilizing during summer months
Fertilizing more than twice a year requires more watering and mowing and may increase disease and insect problems

Weeding

The first step in weed management is a healthy lawn

- **Mow high to minimize weeds**
- **Hand weed when possible**
- **Identify the weed first; timing and control methods vary**
- **If you use a pesticide, spot treat instead of treating the whole lawn**
- **Read and follow the label**

LEARN MORE



Resources

Find research based lawn care information on these websites

- <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/lawntalk/>
University of Illinois Extension website *Lawn Talk: Lawn Care Information for Northern Illinois*
- <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/lawncare.pdf>
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency website on *Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment*
- <http://www.thelawninstitute.org/>
The Lawn Institute website makes its over 50 years of expertise available to everyone



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For more information about a BE GREEN TO YOUR LAWN display for your organization, contact pollard@illinois.edu

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