

LAWN CARE



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You will receive *Clean Water Action News*, our national newsletter.

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Enclosed is my donation of \$_____*

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (day) _____

(eve) _____

Please note: Because we lobby for environmental protection laws, donations to NJEF are not tax-deductible. NJEF is the NJ chapter of national Clean Water Action.

Name of Canvasser _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to :

NJ Environmental Federation
1002 Ocean Avenue • Belmar, NJ 07719
732-280-8988

* Contributions of \$6.00 or more entitle you to membership in the NJ Environmental Federation for one year; a \$2.00 donation will entitle you to a four-month membership. All members are eligible to participate in organizational meetings and events as well as elections for the Board of Directors. For non-sustaining members, to receive written notice of the Board elections, please send your name and address to: NJEF Board Elections, 1002 Ocean Ave. Belmar, NJ 07719.

MONITOR THE LAWN

Identify problems: Sufficient sunlight and air? Disease? [e.g. dollar spot, leaf spot] Pests? [Chinch bugs, etc.] Treat only the problems that exist and use natural and mechanical controls first.

MOWING

Set mower 3" -4". Taller grass shades out weeds (like crabgrass). To prevent compaction, rotate mowing pattern. Mow lawn as needed, never cutting more than 1/3 of leaf blade at a time, and leave grass clippings on lawn for nutrient recycling.

TEST SOIL FOR FERTILITY AND pH

Have soil tested each year. Pulverized or pelletized lime should be added according to need determined by pH test results. Fertilize twice a year in the early spring and late fall.

REMOVE THATCH

Thatch is the accumulated dead material at the base of the grass. Rake frequently by hand or rent a thatching machine. De-thatch only if thatch is one inch or more. Organic fertilizers help break down thatch naturally. Worms do too!

REDUCE WEEDS

Use correct mower height. Re-seed bare spots preferably in the fall. Identify weeds and establish tolerance levels. Hand dig weeds until competition by grass plants eliminates most weeds.

WATERING

If less than 1" of rain falls per week, water deeply and infrequently. This encourages deep root growth. Sandy soils and sloped lawns need more frequent watering. Water only between midnight and 8 AM.

ELIMINATE PESTS

Attract birds, "nature's insect control", by planting native shrubs and by offering housing, water and food. Identify pests, then use biological pesticides specific to that pest. Use B.t. for leaf eating caterpillars; milky spore powder for the long-term control of Japanese beetle grubs and beneficial nematodes to control high populations of Japanese beetle grubs. Natural pesticides such as pyrethrum, neem, and insecticidal soap are broad spectrum and toxic, but are short-lived in the environment. They should be used with caution and only as a last resort, in accordance with label directions.

PLANT PROPER VARIETIES OF GRASS

Choose appropriate grasses for your soil and light conditions. Re-seed bare spots; preferably in the fall. Over-seed (rake in) if grass plants are aging. Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension Program for more information. Consider alternatives to grass such as myrtle, pachysandra, ferns, and moss.

AERATE SOIL

Core aeration helps prevent weeds and reduces compaction. Aerators can be bought or rented. A good supply of earthworms will aerate the soil adequately as long as there is no compaction problem. Aerate before re-seeding.

LAWN SERVICE

Avoid chemicals entirely. Get a written contact. Don't let them treat problems that are not there! Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County for a list of IPM Landscapers at 732-349-1246.

This brochure was produced by Clean Water Fund with support from Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Environment Endowment for New Jersey.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

The season to make your lawn green is here! Eliminate the risk of pesticide exposure to you, your children, your pets and our waterways...

■ IF YOU LIVE IN A SINGLE/MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING:

NO commercial application of pesticides can take place for the control of pests on lawns or landscape without the following stipulations being met...

1. **Signs have to be posted on the treated property** at the start of the application and for at least 24 hours afterwards. These signs must be placed where they are clearly legible and visible from principal access points.
2. **No pesticide application will take place until the owner has been given the opportunity to review the following information in writing:**
 - a. Proposed date(s) of application;
 - b. The pesticide(s) to be used (brand name and common chemical names, if available, of the active ingredients);
 - c. Label instructions relating to owner and public safety;
 - d. A copy of the **Consumer Information Sheet**, which shall contain the name, address & telephone number of the applicator; the telephone numbers for the NJ Department of Health, NJ Poison Information and Education System for emergency situations; a written statement that a copy of the pesticide label(s) will be made available by the applicator, if requested.
3. **The applicator must supply notification** of the specific date of pesticide application if the customer or a neighbor requests prior notification.
- **NEIGHBORS' RIGHTS:**

if you live next to a person who is going to have pesticides applied on their lawn, you have the right to contact the pesticide applicator for the information in section 2 above. If you suspect a pesticide has been misapplied on your property or your neighbor's property, register a complaint by calling the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program at 609-984-6568.

There is more to pest control than just spraying pesticides. You can use an organic process for treatment of your lawn.

Below are some important questions you should ask the lawn service:

1. Are they willing to use natural "organic" methods?
2. Do they use only natural, organic products and processes or do they mix toxic chemicals?
3. If they use an organic process, what are the steps taken if the first procedure does not work? Will they use any chemicals in future applications?
4. Do they use a truly integrated pest management program (IPM)? Do they take into consideration factors of beneficial insect populations (parasitic and predatory), environmental considerations (lack of water, not enough sun, too much shade)?
5. Do they check back and monitor the lawn?

SOURCE LIST AND INFORMATION



RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

20 Court Street, Freehold, NJ 07728 • 732-431-7260

OCEAN COUNTY

1623 Whitesville Road • Toms River, NJ 08755
732-349-1246 (Or your local county cooperative extension program) Free advice on pests, disease and choice of seed. Soil Testing Kit @ \$8.00

BUG BUDDIES

Beneficial insects, nematodes, organic fertilizer, and free advice (orders) 804-542-4607.

LAWN-A-LIVE Lawn Care Company

P.O. Box 1148 • Ridgewood, NJ 07451-1148
800-443-LAWN • 201-670-4859

National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides

701 E Street S.E. Washington, DC 2003
202-543-5450 • Excellent booklet on lawn care \$4.00; and a booklet called "Least Toxic Control of Pests", \$6.00
www.Beyondpesticides.org

The Chemical Free Lawn, by Warren Schultz

St. Martins Press, February 1989, \$14.95



- **State Office**
1002 Ocean Avenue
Belmar, NJ 07719
Phone: 732-280-8988
Fax: 732-280-0371
- **Legislative Office**
1 Lower Ferry Rd
Trenton, NJ 07719
Phone: 609-530-1515
Fax: 609-530-1508
- **South Jersey Office**
223 Park Avenue
Marlton, NJ 08053
Phone: 856-767-1110
Fax: 856-768-6662
- **North Jersey Office**
559 Bloomfield Ave
Montclair, NJ 07042
Phone: 973-744-3005
Fax: 973-744-3069

■ National Clean Water

455 Connecticut Ave., Washington, DC 20008
Phone: 202-895-0420 Fax: 202-895-0438

www.cleanwateraction.org/njef

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT!

Pesticides are toxic substances that are dispersed throughout the environment to kill living organisms. They can affect the health of people, especially children, and are contaminating the surface and ground waters of our state. Your help is needed to ensure pesticide safety and promote least toxic alternatives.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone (day) _____

(eve) _____

Email _____

YES, I CAN HELP OUT WITH:

_____ Telephone calls/letter writing to my legislators and other officials

_____ Help reduce the use of pesticides in my school, park, public building and workplace.

_____ Attend meetings/public hearings.

_____ Other (specify) _____

Please send me additional information on:

(Indicate quantity and make checks payable to NJEF)

_____ Non-toxic Household Hints Chart(s) @ \$2

_____ Safe Pest Control for Schools brochure(s) @ .50¢

_____ Legislative Lobbying Kit(s) @ \$2

Complete Form and send to:

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