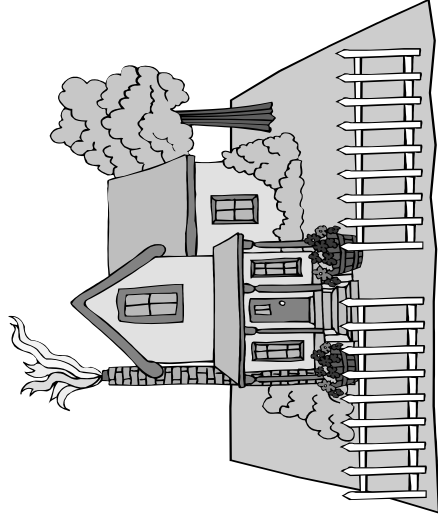


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Chatham, NJ
Permit No. 21

Chatham Township Board of Health
Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Road
Chatham, NJ 07928
973-635-4600
www.chathamtownship.org



HEALTHY LAWNS AND LANDSCAPES



Chatham Township Board of Health



in association with the
**Chatham Township
Environmental Commission**

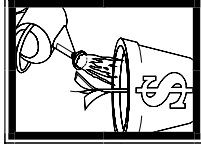
Imagine your kids playing on grass that isn't treated with pesticides.

Your kids can play on nice grass where you never need a "Keep off, Pesticide Application" warning sign.



Imagine watering costs cut in half!

Healthy soils with thriving micro-organisms lead to deep-rooted grass. Deep roots require less watering, less fertilizing, and save you money.



Imagine no mowing!

Turn part of your lawn into a landscape with a diversity of hardy native plants, flowers, ground covers, trees and shrubs. Native, deer-resistant bushes include Holly, Magnolia, Spicebush, Sumac, and Witch Hazel.



**Now is the time to make
the move to non-toxic
lawn care. For yourself,
your children, your pets
and the environment.**

PESTICIDES ARE: GRUB CONTROL, WEED KILLER, FUNGUS TREATMENT, INSECT SPRAY, CRAB GRASS PREVENTER, INSECTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

Pesticides are poisons. Pesticide exposure in humans has been associated with birth defects, numerous cancers, Parkinson's disease and other neurological disorders, male and female infertility and immune system problems.

An EPA registration number does not mean that a product is safe. The long term health effects of most pesticide ingredients, their breakdown products, and their interactions are not well known.

Lawn pesticides get carried indoors by shoes, paws and air currents. Once inside, pesticides linger in carpets, dust, toys and air. Away from sunlight and water, pesticides can persist for many months.

Pesticides contaminate drinking water. Use of pesticides in urban and suburban communities contributes significantly to contamination of our water supplies.

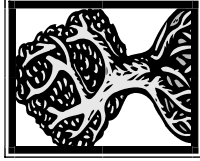
Children are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of pesticides. Using household and lawn pesticides puts children at risk for birth defects, cancers and behavioral problems.

Children are more at risk because of their size and behaviors. In a recent study of preschoolers, 99% had one or more pesticides in their bodies.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

SIMPLE STEPS TO ORGANIC LAWN CARE

The easiest, most cost effective way to a beautiful, healthy lawn is to work with nature, not against it. A healthy lawn needs nutrients and microbe-rich soil to develop deep rooted, dense turf that competes successfully with weeds. Dense turf is beautiful and low maintenance. It naturally resists drought, insects and diseases.



Pesticides are not necessary for a beautiful lawn. In fact, they can do more harm than good. They kill the microbial life necessary for healthy soil and can kill the pest's natural enemies. This invites disease and insect infestation, which leads to more pesticide use and traps you in an unhealthy, costly chemical cycle.

Basic lawn care tips:

- ◆ Spread 1/4" compost, or sprinkle organic fertilizer, each fall.

- ◆ Seed with a mix of hardy grasses.

- ◆ Mow high! Keep mower blades sharp.

- ◆ Leave grass clippings on lawn as fertilizer.

- ◆ Water only when soil is dry 6" down. 1" water per watering.

- ◆ Overseed in the spring and fall.

- ◆ Strive for a soil pH around 6.8.



YEARLY SCHEDULE



March & April

Sharpen mower blades.
Raise mower blade to 3 inches.
Test soil: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County, 973-285-8300, www.ifplantscouldtalk.rutgers.edu/factsheets.
Add soil amendments based on soil test.
Re-seed bare patches, or apply corn gluten to prevent weed germination.
Always leave clippings on lawn to fertilize.

May and June

Check for weeds; pull out by hand.
Re-seed bare spots.
Monitor for insect pests.
If you have grub damage, spot treat with milky spore (once every ten years) and/or with beneficial nematode worms (once yearly for 2 or 3 years).



August

You may allow lawn to go dormant during drought. It will green up after rain.

September and October

Best time to seed (generously).
Fertilize if needed (sparingly) or top dress with 1/4 inch compost.

Aerate if soil is compacted.

Lime if an autumn soil test finds pH lower than about 6.8.

November

Final mowing at 2 inches for easier leaf raking.



MANAGING YOUR LAWN SERVICE



- ◆ Specify mowing high with sharp blades.
- ◆ Request corn gluten and organic fertilizer instead of "Weed and Feed" products.
- ◆ Refuse routine application of pesticides, but if pesticides are used, make sure they are handled properly and applied sparingly by a licensed professional.
- ◆ Beware if a lawn service tells you a chemical application is safe. Federal EPA regulations prohibit manufacturers from making pesticide safety claims, even if used as directed. All pesticides must be treated with caution.
- ◆ Never allow unidentified products to be used on your lawn. Request safety information and read it before application. Look up toxicity at www.pesticide.org.
- ◆ Be aware that chemicals listed as inert ingredients can be highly toxic.
- ◆ Take note: many pesticides persist in lawns and soil long after the posted 24-72 hours.
- ◆ Ask for an organic program. An organic lawn can take up to 3 years to fully establish.
- ◆ Organic lawn care has been defined by the Northeast Organic Farming Association in their Standards for Organic Land Care. Order a copy from www.organiclandcare.net/publications.
- ◆ Organic lawn service is available in our area. See www.chathamtownship.org/healthy_lawns.html.

FIND OUT MORE

Organic Gardening Supplies*

J&M Home and Garden, Madison 973-377-4740

The Farm at Green Village,

Chatham 973-377-8703

Great Swamp Greenhouses,

Meyersville 908-647-3725

Gardens Alive, 812-537-

8650, www.gardensalive.com

Coviello Brothers, Madison

973-377-3055

McGrath's Paint and Hardware,

Chatham 973-765-9666

*The above suppliers are within a five mile radius and have responded positively to our survey of businesses selling organic lawn care products. This list does not constitute endorsement or approval of any of those listed. Chatham Township assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of this information.

Organizations

Poison Free Lawns:

www.poisonfreelawns.com

Northeast Organic Farming

Association- NJ: 609-737-6848,

www.nofanj.org

Beyond Pesticides: 202-543-5450,

www.beyondpesticides.org

NJ Environmental Federation: Pesticide

Coordinator, 856-767-1110,

www.cleanwateraction.org/njef

Organic Materials Review Institute:

www.omri.org

Local Services & More Information

Further information on organic lawn care products and local landscape contractors that offer organic lawn care is available at

www.chathamtownship.org/healthy_lawns.html.

