

# 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?

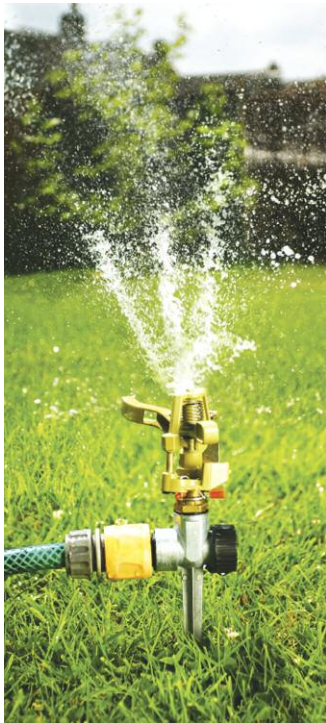


With a ban on the cosmetic use of pesticide on lawns and gardens in place, it is a good time to start thinking about how we take care of our lawns.

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.