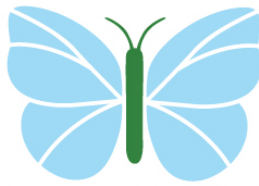


HEALTHY



YARDS

Checklist for a Healthy Yard

MOW HIGH AND WATER LESS

Mowing grass to about 4" helps shade out weeds and encourages roots to grow longer: this helps the lawn tolerate heat better and require less watering.

check

GO ELECTRIC

Switch to electric or battery powered yard equipment. It's cleaner, less polluting, quieter and it is better for your health as well as the planet's.

check

DON'T USE ARTIFICIAL PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES

Save the natural ecology of the soil and the quality of our drinking water by using only natural amendments. For the safest protection against ticks, use tick bait boxes and check yourself.

check

DON'T USE ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

Runoff from chemical fertilizers causes great harm to our streams and ponds. Native plants, shrubs and trees don't need fertilizers.

check

MULCH GRASS AND LEAVES

Leaf blowers damage our yards and our health. Leave grass clippings on the lawn and attach a leaf mulching blade to your existing mower in the fall to mulch leaves into the lawn.

check

CHOOSE SUSTAINABLE PLANTS

Pollinators and birds rely on native plants to raise their young. Plant native perennials also for better drainage, erosion control and their beauty.

check

COVER AND AMEND THE SOIL NATURALLY

Try to plant densely to decrease the need for water and weeding. Compost and fallen leaves improve the soil structure and add nutrients for your plants.

check

REMOVE INVASIVES

Familiarize yourself with the invasive plants in your area and remove them from your property.

check

REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE LAWN

Turf grass provides very few benefits to the ecosystem. For a more sustainable yard, reduce the size of the lawn and add beds for native plants.

check

KEEP IT DARK

If you place light fixtures in your landscape make sure they direct downwards, so they don't distract wildlife. Don't use blue light and turn the lights off when you leave the outdoors.

check

For more details and information please visit www.healthyyards.org