

# MAKE YOUR GRASS GREEN

## THE AVERAGE AMERICAN LAWN IS TREATED WITH FIVE TO TEN POUNDS OF PESTICIDE PER ACRE.

Synthetic fertilizers and pesticides destroy naturally present beneficial organisms, making the grass more dependent on chemicals. But organic lawn care focuses instead on soil management techniques and long-term results.

### KEY ELEMENTS FOR YOUR LAWN:

**CUT HIGH:** Cut grass about 3 inches high. Taller grass blocks weeds and has deeper roots, giving them better access to water in the soil. Also, by mowing grass high you reduce the stress on the grass and enable it to compete better with weeds. This will allow you to weed and water less.

**FEED AS YOU MOW:** When mowing your lawn, leave the clippings. Clippings are organic nutrients, on which grass feeds. Clippings will begin to breakdown within a week if the soil is filled with nutrients.

**TOPDRESS WITH COMPOST:** Use compost in your lawn, giving it the necessary nutrients and making it less susceptible to diseases. Best type of compost: Compost tea (for information on compost refer to our Compost handout)

**BLANKET FAR & WIDE:** Use mulch around trees and plants. Less grass = less mowing!

**REMEMBER:** Grass doesn't grow everywhere! For shady areas try planting groundcover, and try bark or gravel in pathways or heavily trafficked areas.

**TYPES OF GRASS:** For information on types of grass, refer to The Natural Lawn & Alternatives written by the staff at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, or visit: [www.american-lawns.com/grasses/grasses.html](http://www.american-lawns.com/grasses/grasses.html)

### RESOURCES TO HELP WITH YOUR LAWN:

Organic Lawn Care Guide: [www.extremelygreen.com/lawn-care-guide.cfm](http://www.extremelygreen.com/lawn-care-guide.cfm)

Natural Lawn Care: [eartheasy.com/grow\\_lawn\\_care.htm](http://eartheasy.com/grow_lawn_care.htm)

**TO SEE AN EXAMPLE OF A COMPLETELY ORGANICALLY TREATED LAWN, COME VISIT OUR AT THE SUSTAINABLE BACKYARD DEMONSTRATION GARDENS AT LONG HILL.**



[www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org)

