

Lawn Care Tips for Clean Water

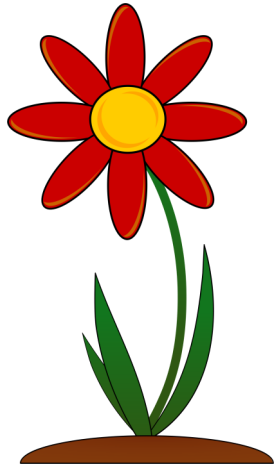


Brought to you by the Keizer Environmental and Technical Program.

Spring

Try spreading a light layer of compost over your lawn instead of a chemical fertilizer, good compost is alive with microbes that will provide nutrition for healthy, dark green lawn. In addition these microbes are shown to provide some suppression of common lawn fungus and pathogens, which can help cut down on the use of pesticides as well.

The addition of compost to your lawn will build a healthy soil that will retain water more efficiently in the summer as well if you choose to irrigate it.



Compost can be spread by shovel and rake, or by utilizing a rolling compost spreader. These can usually be rented locally.

Did you know?: Compost is a renewable resource that is produced locally from your yard debris and kitchen scraps. So by putting it back onto your lawn, you are helping to complete an important ecosystem process that doesn't occur when you use chemical fertilizers.

Lawn Care Tips for Clean Water

Brought to you by the Keizer Environmental and Technical Program.



Summer



Mowing: Never cut more than 1/3 of the grass height, this allows for good turf development, and natural weed suppression. While it may be tempting to go for a golf course style low cut, this stresses the grass, causing it to need more water and allows for weed seeds to germinate in the open space.

Did you know?: 2,4-D, the common weed killer found in Weed and Feed type formulations, was one of the ingredients in the toxic Agent Orange concoction that was used to defoliate South East Asia during the Vietnam war. It is very toxic to honeybees.

Watering: Grass can go dormant in the summer with no water and come back healthy in the fall. If you must water, do so only every three days, and check to see that the water is getting down to a depth of three to four inches so the roots can take up the water efficiently.



Lawn Care Tips for Clean Water

Fall

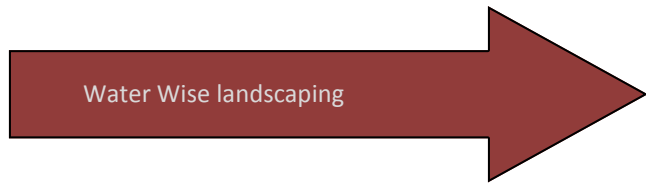
Now is a great time to apply another light layer of compost to your lawn, the nutrition you give the grass roots now will build healthy shoots next spring.



Over winter the nutrients in the compost will slowly release to be available for the roots to up-take as soon as growth begins in the spring.

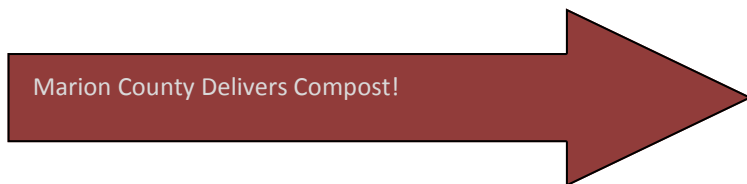
Did you know?: Grass clippings are 4% Nitrogen, 0.5% Phosphorus, and 2% Potassium. So don't bag them, use a mulching blade and leave it on the lawn for free fertilizer.

Links to additional information and resources for a healthy lawn and landscape that won't pollute the environment.



https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/docs/water-efficient_landscaping_508.pdf

<http://www.the-compost-gardener.com/>



<http://www.co.marion.or.us/JUV/freshstartmarket/Pages/compost.aspx>