

## HEALTHY LAWN CARE

### Great Lawns/Great Lakes

*You can  
make a difference!*



### Healthy Lawn Care in Four Easy Steps:

#### Step 1 - May 1 through Memorial Day.

- **Your Mower** - Have your mower blades sharpened. Adjust blade height to 3" all summer, your lawn will be less susceptible to drought, weeds and insects.
- **Grasscycle** - leave your grass clippings on your lawn, they are a valuable source of nitrogen and can reduce your fertilizer use by a third. **Follow the 1/3 rule:** cut no more than 1/3 of the grass blade each time you mow (if your mower is set at 3", mow again before the grass grows to 4.5".)
- **Complete soil Nutrient Analysis Test** every 3-5 years (before you fertilize.) These kits are available at the Monroe County Cornell Cooperative Extension - (585) 461-1000.
- You can apply a **slow release, low phosphorus fertilizer** - always follow product labels.

#### Step 2 - Summer Months

No fertilization is necessary - your lawn may become dormant (straw color) in dry, hot weather.

#### Step 3 - Around Labor Day

- If you choose to fertilize just once a year, now is the best time. Apply a **slow-release, low phosphorus fertilizer**.
- Conduct a grub test by peeling back one square foot of turf. If you find fewer than 10 grubs in that square, you do *not* have a problem. If a problem is seen, treat the areas now while grubs are actively feeding.
- If you have a serious weed problem or must reseed, attend to it now.

## Healthy Lawn Care

### Step 4 - November 1 through November 30

- After top growth has stopped and before the ground freezes, you can apply a **quick-release, low phosphorus fertilizer**.
- To reduce snow mold, lower mower height to 2" for your final mow.
- Keep storm sewers free of leaves and debris.

### Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Unwanted fertilizers and pesticides (HHW) can become environmental hazards when disposed of improperly. Monroe County provides its residents with a way to safely recycle or dispose of these and other materials free-of-charge. For details, visit [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov) under Environmental Services. To schedule an appointment call (585) 760-7600 (option 3), 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Composting

Composting is nature's way of breaking down plant materials. To "recycle" your vegetable and fruit scraps, leaves and grass, you need:

- an out-of-the-way area
- 2-3 parts brown material (leaves, twigs, straw)
- 1 part green material (grass, dead plants, vegetable scraps)
- water the pile until as moist as a wrung-out sponge
- mix the pile every 2 to 3 weeks

Do not add meats, fat, salad dressing, or pet waste. An "active" pile produces good compost within a year.

*For more information call the Monroe County Cornell Cooperative Extension Garden helpline at (585) 473-5335, or visit [www.thewec.org](http://www.thewec.org)*



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