Creating a Healthy Yard...

Greenscapes™ are beautiful landscapes that protect our water.

Organic vs. Synthetic - You decide

Organic

• Made of coarse materials, does not run off easily
• Works to build healthy soils, full of microbes, which feed plants and loosen the soil
• Synthetic

• Composed in part of man-made chemicals, often including known toxicants and carcinogens
• Composed of materials found in nature - decomposed matter, plant extracts, minerals


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This information is brought to you by your town and the NSRWA.
Get your lawn off drugs! Organic is the healthy way to go!

Commercial fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are like fast food - they fill you up and taste good, but hurt your health. That's the same with synthetic lawn care products, which rob the soil of vital nutrients and microbes, requiring more and more applications of fertilizers and chemicals to compensate.

Healthy soils make healthy grass... it's as simple as that!

The concept of going organic is all about creating healthy soils that have the right nutrients and pH, which will encourage robust grass growth through long, strong roots. FACT: Grass will outcompete weeds if given the right soil conditions!

Going organic how to:

1. Go cold turkey - Don’t make a slow transition. Organic is about creating healthy soil to nurture plant growth - synthetic is about stimulating plant growth above ground. They are not compatible.

2. Get your soil tested - This is imperative, because you must know your soil’s deficiencies, including pH levels to provide the right soil conditions for healthy root growth. Go to http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest/ to get information about the UMass Extension’s soil test, which is comprehensive and very inexpensive!

3. Add the soil amendments that the test results suggest.

4. Top dress with compost - Put 1/2” of compost on your lawn. Compost provides organic matter, teeming with microbes, that will make the soil more porous and nutrient-rich.

5. Overseed in the spring and the fall. Mowing does not let grasses form the seed heads necessary for them to self-sow, which is why overseeding is important. When overseeding, use a blend of fescues, which grow deep roots and are very drought tolerant.

6. Spray compost tea on your lawn once a month during the growing season. You can make your own or you can buy liquid or dehydrated compost tea at many nurseries.

7. Apply organic fertilizer in the fall. Organic fertilizer is much coarser and less soluble than synthetic fertilizer, so it tends to stay put.

The end result - a beautiful, healthy yard