



TAKE THE GREENSCAPES PLEDGE

Be a Greenscaper...



To learn more about creating a beautiful, eco-friendly yard, go to www.Greenscapes.org.

Watering our lawns can consume vast amounts of water, and pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from our yards can migrate great distances, polluting our water supply, rivers and ocean. There is a better way! Be a Greenscaper. Take the pledge. You'll save time, money and our environment.

I will care for my lawn by:

- Watering only at dawn
- Watering only when my lawn is thirsty
- Mowing with a sharp mower blade
- Leaving grass clippings on my lawn
- Keeping my grass at least 3" tall
- Using only compost on my lawn and garden

Sign the pledge at www.Greenscapes.org. You will receive landscaping and water-saving ideas.



Greenscapes™ are beautiful landscapes that protect our water.

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What is the Greenscapes pledge? It is a list of ways to care for your yard that will save you time, money and water.

Water only at dawn - At dawn plants can absorb the water they need, whereas watering in the heat of the day can actually burn your plants. Night watering encourages mildew and bacteria to grow.

Water only when your lawn is thirsty - Frequent, light watering discourages root growth. Watering to a depth of 6 inches no more than once a week will give your grass the stamina to withstand hot summer days by encouraging long root growth to reach water that is stored deeper in the ground.

Mow with a sharp mower blade - Dull blades tear the grass, allowing mildew and bacteria to enter. Experts recommend mower blades should be sharpened every 10 hours of mowing time for a healthy, clean trim.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn - They will decompose quickly, leaving the equivalent of a free nitrogen fertilizer application behind.

Keep your grass at least 3" tall - Tall grass shades out weeds. A study showed that grass cut at a 3" height had 7% weeds, whereas 1" grass had 55% weeds. Less mowing = less weeding and less work. A good gauge of 3" is a credit card, held length-wise.

Use only compost on your lawn and garden -- Compost builds healthy soil by encouraging the growth of important microbes, which feed the plants. Synthetic lawn products can kill these microbes requiring your yard to need more and more chemicals each year. In addition, it is estimated that 80% of the synthetic products don't stay put - they wash into our rivers, lakes and ocean.



Photo courtesy of Risa Edelstein

3"
**Optimum
grass
height**

2"

1"



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protects our water

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