

Organic Lawn Care

Organic lawn care is growing a healthy lawn without the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. It's about taking care of the soil, which in turn provides the foundation for a healthy lawn. It's also more than that.

Organic lawn care is a philosophy that considers and cares for the entire ecosystem, including the water supply, people, animals, and insects, as well as the soil. By using naturally derived products, you're working with nature, not against it. You're able to maintain the natural cycle by regularly replacing nutrients plants have used.

Adopting an organic lawn care strategy reduces pollution in the atmosphere, nutrient run-off into waterways, waste in landfills, and the inorganic products used that may disturb the natural order hidden in the soil. You're really not taking care of grass, you're nurturing the soil so your lawn has the best opportunity for healthy growth.

Quick Tips

- Avoid synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- The higher you mow, the deeper the root system.
- Nurture the soil for a healthy lawn.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn.

Water Deeply, Less Frequently

Your lawn's root system is about as deep as the length of the grass. Taller grass indicates a deeper, stronger root system, which helps keep away pests and weeds. And [watering](#) less frequently actually encourages a deep, strong root system.

Generally, your lawn needs about an inch of water every week. Depending on your soil type, it could be a little more or less. One rule of thumb is to water to a depth of about 6".

Water early in the morning to minimize evaporation and allow grass dry out, which helps prevent diseases getting started. In the heat of summer or during drought conditions, consider letting your [lawn go dormant](#) to conserve water.

Feed the Soil. It Feeds the Lawn.

A slow-release fertilizer like [Milorganite®](#) feeds your lawn for up to 10 weeks. Nutrients are slowly and consistently released into the soil at a rate plants use. This significantly reduces the amount of nutrients that may be washed away. Milorganite also adds organic matter to the soil, which promotes healthy soil and, in turn, improves the soil's ability to grow plants.

The Curse of Every Weed: A Healthy Lawn

The best way to drastically reduce the number of annoying weeds is to grow a lawn so healthy and thick that weeds don't stand a chance! Learn [Eco-friendly weed control](#) ways to rid your lawn of crabgrass, clover, creeping charlie, and other broadleaf weeds.

Mow High, Let Clippings Lie

Put grass clippings to work for a healthier lawn; leave them on the lawn when you mow. It provides about the same amount of nutrients as an application of fertilizer. It also reduces the amount of grass clippings destined for landfills. Here are more [tips and information on mowing](#).

Use an Electric or Muscle-Powered Mower

Swap out your gas-powered mower with an electric model to eliminate a significant source of air pollution. A push or reel-type mower is an even more eco-friendly approach since you're the power source. It's good exercise!

Northcentral Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition

Clean water starts with you!

stormwater-ducky.org



Many thanks to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District for **all** the content in this fact sheet.
Find out more at: <https://www.milorganite.com/lawn-care/organic-lawn-care>