

Healthy Lawns the Eco Friendly Way

Easy Tips for Beautiful Lawns

It is important to understand that the soil is a **living thing** and in order to have a healthy green lawn you must work **with** nature instead of simply blasting it with fertilisers and chemicals and hoping for the best. Following is some simple tips for healthy grass that is a real asset to your home, provides a feeding ground for birds, prevents soil erosion, helps clean the air, is simply nice to walk on and looks great.

A healthy lawn can out-compete most weeds, survive most insect attacks, and fend off most diseases before the problems get out of hand.

1. Develop healthy soil. The lawn will only be as good as the soil it is grown in. Ensure your soil is "loamy" that has a mix of sand, silt and clay. Add organic matter by using compost or grass clippings. If it is packed down you may need to **aerate** the soil or lawn several times per year.
2. Use natural gypsum in clay soils or natural lime to add calcium and to sweeten the soil. Repeat **light** applications annually.
3. Include Natra-Store water saving granules under new turf to retain moisture and house microbes and nutrient.
4. Use only **organic based** (Organic Link) slow release lawn fertiliser. Chemical fertilisers make lawns green but create long term problems for the soil and the waterways. It is better to apply a little **each season** than a lot at once.
5. Used **liquid seaweed** each season to help replenish minerals and trace elements in the soil.
6. Choose the right grass for your area. Some grasses are more shade tolerant but if you have an area that you simply cant get the grass to grow, like under a tree, then consider a garden bed.
7. Use Triple Boost as required to give lawns a boost especially when they are **first laid** or are in heavy wear areas.
8. Grasses including things like rice, wheat and sugar cane can contain up to 18% dry weight matter Silica so it important to **replenish Silica** each season by foliar spray. It **toughens** grass especially in high traffic areas.
9. Mow High – Generally we mow too low and **scalp** lawns. Set your mower to 50 to 75 mm in height and **leave it**. A healthy thicker lawn will choke out most weeds. Ensure your mower blades are sharp.
10. Water deeply but not too often- It is better to **soak** the grass slowly and deeply then let it dry out before re watering. This will help your lawn grow strong deep roots.
11. All grass forms a layer of dead plant material called **thatch**. Overuse of fertiliser can create a heavy layer of thatch. In a healthy lawn, micro-organisms and earthworms help keep the thatch layer in **balance**. Do not upset the microbial balance by using harsh chemical fertilisers just because the label says so.
12. Topdress lawns to **level only**, not for nutrition. Use **pit sand** and do not apply too thick at once. Leave the "ears" of the lawn poking through and add more sand later as the lawn grows through. Water sand in with Triple Boost to



encourage growth and microbial activity.

13. Even healthy lawns have weeds or insects pests. Beneficial insects and microbes help keep pests under control. Do not spray with pesticides unless it is absolutely necessary or beneficial insects and even birds will be deterred and even eliminated. **All pesticides are toxic to some degree. Never use pesticides as a prevention. Never assume pesticides are not toxic.**
14. Pest attack in lawns like lawn grub is often an indication that the lawn is weak or stressed. Always try fertiliser like Plant Care prior to reaching for pesticides and normally the lawn will **fully recover**. Apply every week for 3 weeks....and see how it comes up. Spray Aid is great for “sticking” fertiliser to the leaf so add some to your liquid fertiliser applications especially in sandy soils.
15. Serious, **ongoing** pest problems are often a sign that your lawn is not getting everything it needs. You need to *correct the underlying* problem to reduce the chance of the pests reappearing. *We recommend to Turf growers a **soil and leaf test** to correct ongoing problems and specific inputs.*
16. **All pesticides are toxic to some degree.** This means that they can pose some risk to you, your children and to any wildlife that ventures into you garden- especially if they are used carelessly. They also unbalance the **soil food web**.
17. Take precautions and **never** assume pesticides are harmless. Read and understand the entire label. Ensure you have correctly identified the pest and have the correct pesticide for the job. Be sure to wear protective clothing and safety devices. Keep children and pets away for at least a week after applying. Store the pesticides safely. Spot treat where possible; do not blanket spray.

Conclusion:- Healthy lawns that are “in balance” are a great part of a home and even the most fastidious owner should **rarely** have to reach for pesticides if at all. Regular use of natural products like fish, seaweed, plant care, silica and neem will place essential elements that get consumed and leached. All plants are like us and required different foods so don't be fooled by glossy labels that claim to be the **only** product required. If in doubt contact a professional consultant but **ask** him if he uses eco friendly practices **prior** to taking his advice. We can provide **comprehensive** soil and leaf testing and perscribe specific inputs based on your test results.

DISCLAIMER:- All recommendations are provided as general advice only. As no control can be exercised over storage, handling, mixing, application, weather, soil or plant conditions, the buyer assumes responsibility for the use of any Plant of Health products



