



Living Lawns is Falmouth's healthy lawn care education program. Yard care products, such as fertilizers and weed and bug killers, can harm us, our pets, and our water. Responsible landscaping practices build healthy soil to grow a beautiful lawn without weed and bug killers and with reduced use of fertilizer.

WHY CHANGE?

Creating a low-maintenance lawn saves you money, time, and effort! A YardScaped yard is healthier and better for you, your family, and the environment. A healthy, natural lawn is more resistant to weeds, bugs, disease, and drought! Yard care products, such as fertilizers and pesticides, can enter our water and make it unsafe for us to drink, fish, and play in!

DO YOU HIRE A LAWN CARE COMPANY?

CONSIDER THESE REQUESTS OF YOUR LAWNCARE PROVIDER:

- Apply fertilizer in the early fall, based on soil test results, not on a fixed schedule. Applying fertilizer unnecessarily is a waste of time and money and pollutes our water.
- Use YardScaping practices to reduce pests instead of using weed and bug killers.
- Set your mower blades to 3" and leave the clippings. Cutting grass high allows roots to develop, and leaving the clippings provides your lawn with a free source of fertilizer.
- Topdress by spreading a thin layer of compost over the lawn. Compost will add organic matter and increase soil depth.
- Overseed with a mixture of fescues and ryegrasses. Help out compete weeds and rejuvenate your lawn by adding new seed.

DO YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN LAWN?

GROWING A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE LAWN DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DIFFICULT. FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS FOR A LUSH, GREEN LAWN THAT'S SAFE FOR YOUR FAMILY AND HELPS KEEP WATER CLEAN.

STEP 1: SPRING GREENING: (APRIL – JUNE) MOW HIGH; LET THE CLIPPINGS LIE!

- If soil is very compact or low in loam, aerate and topdress with compost.
- Seed bare spots with endophyte-enhanced perennial ryegrass.
- Sharpen your mower blades, then mow grass at 2" to start, and increase to 3" for the rest of the season.
- Always leave grass clippings on the lawn for free, natural fertilizer.
- Take a soil test to have results for the fall.

STEP 2: STRONG FOR SUMMER: (JUNE – EARLY AUGUST) WATER WISELY!

- Water only when needed; lawns need 1-1.5" of water per week.
- Apply compost tea to add nutrients and improve soil health (optional).
- Keep an eye out for yard pests and manage if needed.

STEP 3: GROW & STORE: (AUGUST – OCTOBER 15) GET THE DIRT ON YOUR DIRT!

- After August 15, overseed with endophyte-enhanced a perennial ryegrass and fescue mix.
- Take a soil test if you did not do one in the spring.
- Follow soil test results for amending your soil.
- Aerate and topdress with compost.
- Mow to 2" for your final mow of the season.

STEP 4: PLAN & PREPARE: (OCTOBER 15 – APRIL) WINTER IS COMING!

- Avoid piling snow on the lawn (causes compaction).
- Sweep up sand & salt from driveways & walkways.
- Plan for spring!



LIVING LAWNS IS A SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE BY THE FALMOUTH, MAINE CONSERVATION COMMISSION IN COLLABORATION WITH FALMOUTH'S OFFICE OF ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY AND THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT