

HOW TO “GREEN” YOUR LAWN CARE

“Greening” your lawn actually requires *less* work and *less* money than traditional methods! Ask your contractor to do the following:

MOWING

Use a mulch mower to leave clippings on your lawn. Finely chopped grass clippings decompose quickly and recycle nutrients back into your lawn. If the clippings are too long to leave on the lawn, add them to a compost pile for a great source of nitrogen.



Cut your lawn less often. Leave it taller. EPA specialists recommend leaving your grass at least 3 inches high. Taller grass outcompetes weeds and withstands drought.

Switch to electric equipment. Electric mowers and blowers leave us with cleaner air and quieter neighborhoods.

WEEDS and FERTILIZER

Fertilize only when necessary. Fertilizing healthy lawns only encourages excess growth and means more mowing. If needed, ask them to apply organic fertilizers, like your own composted leaves, in early spring.

De-thatch lawns, re-seed bare patches. Spread seed every Spring and Fall to keep your lawn lush. It’s also one of the best ways to reduce weeds.



Hand pull or spot treat weeds. For those weeds that sneak in, ask them to spot treat rather than blanket spray your whole lawn with herbicides.

LEAVES

Leaves make excellent mulch and fertilizer! Rather than sending your leaves to the landfill and then paying for mulch and fertilizer, ask your lawn service to recycle your leaves. Here are some options:

Keep your leaves on your lawn. Rather than raking or blowing leaves, ask your service to run a mulching mower over them. The small leaf bits will decompose into a free, organic fertilizer.



Use leaves as mulch. Whole leaves work as well as traditional wood chip mulch, and they're free! Ask your service to use your leaves in place of purchased mulch.

For finer mulch, let nature do the work. Ask your service to build a compost bin, or find a less maintained area of your yard, and put the leaves here. Over winter, their volume will halve. By next summer, you will have a rich, crumbly fertilizer.

Ask your service to use a rake or electric blower. Wherever you want your leaves to end up, rakes and electric blowers decrease the noise and air pollution created by gas blowers.



WON'T ALL THIS TAKE MORE TIME AND MONEY?

No. In fact, "green" lawn care costs less than traditional care. Here's why:

- Less frequent mowing and fertilizing
- No purchased fertilizer or mulch
- Less, or no pesticide use
- Less time spent moving leaves to the curb
- Studies have shown that gas blowers save little time over raking.

If your service insists on charging more, tell them you will find a company willing to do as you request for the same price. More and more companies are "going green."