

Where the Grass is Greener:



Montgomery County, MD Lawn Care News

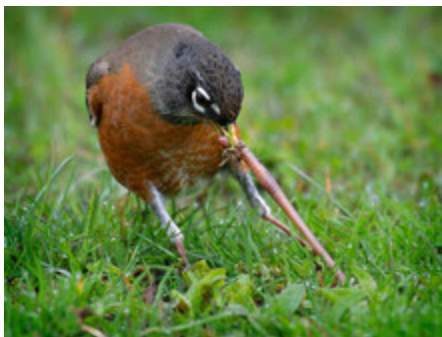


Welcome to the Department of Environmental Protection's newsletter about organic lawns and lawn care.

For more green news, sign up for the [My Green Montgomery newsletter](#).

And check out [our great lawn care website!](#)

What's New?



UPDATE: Montgomery County Pesticide Bill 52-14.

On May 2, 2019, the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland ruled in favor of the County and upheld the law restricting the use of pesticides on private lawns and childcare facility grounds. The Department is working with the County Attorney to understand the implications of this ruling and understand additional legal actions that may take place. **This website** will provide additional information as soon as it is available. The Department is advising all property owners and lawn care businesses, as well as retailers of pesticides for use on lawns, to be prepared for the law to take effect immediately by transitioning to organic lawn care.

The County has maintained a pesticide law for many years, which is reflected in Chapter 33B of the County Code. In 2015, new provisions were added related to the use of certain pesticides on lawns, playgrounds, private schools, and childcare facilities. These new provisions were originally to go in effect January 1, 2018, but enactment has been delayed due to legal challenges.

The new provisions of Bill 52-14 prohibit the use of certain pesticides on lawns; prohibit the use of certain pesticides on playgrounds, children's facilities and certain County-owned property; require applicators to provide advance notices when certain pesticides are applied to private properties; and require County Parks to take steps to reduce the use of pesticides.

Stay tuned for ongoing updates!

If your community or landscaping crew would like information on how to switch to organic lawn care, visit our extensive lawn care pages at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns, or invite DEP to give a presentation to your community. Inquire by emailing AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov



Our 50th property registered their organic lawn!

When we dropped off the sign for our 50th registered property, to our delight we found the owner of **A.I.R.**, one of the County's **Certified Green Businesses**, mowing the lawn, and found out it's his parent's house! Turns out that even when he's done caring for organic lawns around the area, he's still got the "chores" left over from his teens.

If you have an organic lawn, please register it in our program! Submitting your information only takes a few minutes, and you can opt for a sign (or not!). **Register your lawn here.**

Lawn Care Tips



Where can you sharpen your lawn mower blades?

We have been reminding you to keep your lawn mower blades sharp. But where can you take them for sharpening?



Sharpeners rotate through some of the great farmers markets in the area, including Bethesda, Kensington, Mt. Airy, Olney, Pike and Rose, and Rockville—check the market schedules online to find when they will be at a market near you! Don't forget your kale and tomatoes.

In addition to sharpening services at the markets, local hardware stores often also provide blade sharpening.

Mower blades should be kept as sharp as a butter knife. Any sharper and they might get chipped if they hit rocks or hard wood.

Cutting grass with a sharp blade helps the plants conserve water, use less energy to heal, and makes them less prone to diseases. Lawn mower blades might need to be sharpened after about 12-15 hours of use, especially if you are chopping up leaves or have objects like sticks or pine cones in your lawn. If your lawn edges look shredded, it's past time to sharpen.



Did you know that County and public school building lawns are pesticide-free?

County libraries, community centers, recreation centers, senior centers, police and fire stations, bus depots, and public school have had pesticide-free lawn care for years.

If you are looking for a place to enjoy the outdoors with your families and pets, check out the lawns at our County-owned buildings. Please take home your trash and pet waste after your visit.

Want to encourage your community to go organic on their lawns? Share our extensive [webpages](#) with your neighbors, board members, and landscapers.



Landscaping Lessons--In Spanish!

Our friends at the Ecological Landscape Alliance are sharing a series of **landscaping webinars in Spanish** for **FREE** during April, May, and June! Don't miss out.



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