

# Where the Grass is Greener:



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](#).

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## What's New?



### Start Spring out Right--Assess Your Soils!

What a winter it has been, with frequent rain and water logged soils.

It's the perfect time to start a routine of organic lawn care! Birds are eating worms, squirrels are digging up nuts, and kids and dogs are romping in the yard--let's make sure everyone and everything is safe walking barefoot through the grass.

If you are tempted by ads for discounted lawn services, bags of fertilizers and weed pesticides on the shelves of your local garden store, you are not alone. But stop before you shop, and make the right decisions for the health of your local water, air, family, pets, and yourself by avoiding chemical treatments. Here are some easy tips to get off on the right foot this spring with organic lawn care practices:

- Sharpen your lawn mower blades

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn
- Take a soil sample if your lawn is unhealthy
- Add compost or compost tea
- Overseed bare patches with annual ryegrass to suppress summer weeds (and schedule ahead for a fall lawn grass seeding)
- Hand pull unwanted weeds (and add edible ones like chickweed or dandelions to your salad!)
- Aerate compacted soils
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For details on all these tips, and more, visit our [lawn care website](#).

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## Lawn Care Tips



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### Lawn "Weeds" a Problem?

You're looking at your lawn, and thinking there's a few too many weeds in there.

Before grabbing that a of chemicals, [read our blog about lawn weeds](#), and use easy, organic methods to increase your grass and decrease (or appreciate) your weeds.

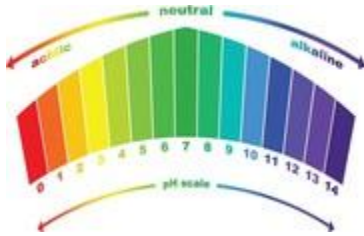
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## Soil Science Shed



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### Should you adjust soil pH?



The short answer is "No," unless the pH is so extreme that you won't be able to grow grass at all. pH is a measurement of the hydrogen atoms in your soil, yet hydrogen is not a plant nutrient. Read more on our [blog about pH](#), or visit our [page on adjusting nutrients](#) for more tips on buffering the pH in your soil.

## In the Community



### Three More Upcoming Lawn Care Talks!

Join us for a talk by Mary Travaglini, our Sustainable Landscapes Manager, to learn about the importance of healthy soils for an organic lawn, and tips for caring for your lawn without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.

March 26th, 7pm **Connie Morella Library**

(Bethesda) ([link to Register](#))

March 27th, 7pm **Olney Library** ([link to Register](#))

April 3rd, 7pm **Rock Creek Conservancy Office** (Bethesda) ([link to Register](#))

Please register using the links above so you can receive a reminder, but all are welcome even without registration.



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