



Westfield | green team

# Organic Lawn Care - Save Money On Landscaping, Help The Planet Too!

**Use natural solutions that cost less and reduce surface and ground water pollution caused by fertilizers and herbicides that are harmful to humans, wildlife and our natural environment.**

**Great resources!**

xerces.org  
jerseyyards.org  
healthyyards.org  
homegrownnationalpark.org

**TIP  
1**

## Know your soil.

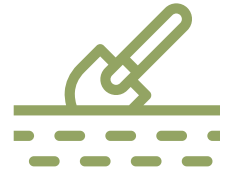
To find out your pH, order a soil test kit from Rutgers, [www.njaes.rutgers.edu](http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu). It's low cost and comes with access to a master gardener hot line for lawn questions. The test will include recommendations to adjust pH and nutrient levels if necessary.



**TIP  
2**

## Focus on healthy soil, which promotes healthy grass.

A thick grass cover will prevent weeds from germinating and growing. Overseeding and aeration done at the right time of year are among the most important and easiest cultural practices to create good grass coverage.



**TIP  
3**

## Keep your grass tall.

Grass that is 2.5. to 3.5 inches tall will shade out weeds.



**TIP  
4**

## Fertilize with compost, not chemicals.

Applying a thin layer of compost, a cultural practice called topdressing, that is raked evenly across the lawn will feed your soil microbes. As they break down the organic matters they release the nutrients that the grass needs to grow.



**TIP  
5**

## Cut it and leave it.

Grass clippings are 80 to 85 percent water. They contain valuable nutrients and decompose quickly, disappearing when they filter down to the soil.



**TIP  
6**

## Talk to your landscaper.

Ask your landscaper not to use pesticides and fertilizers!



*Feed the soil, not the plants--a different way of thinking about your lawn.*