

ORGANIC LAWN CARE TIPS

1. Get your soil tested. It is easy and inexpensive. Go to the UMASS soil testing service webpage and follow the instructions for the “Standard Soil Test with Organic Matter”. Follow the link below for the instructions. The test results will include a list of amendments recommended for improving your lawn.
www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest/soilbrochdec2003.pdf
2. Use organic fertilizers and other organic products to amend the soil as directed by the soil test results. The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) provides a list of products that they have certified as Organic. A list of products can be found on their website at www.omri.org
3. Mow the lawn to maintain a blade height of three inches. Maintaining the lawn at this height increases the grass surface area allowing a greater capacity to make food through photosynthesis, inhibits weed growth and encourages deeper roots which increase the turf’s tolerance of drought.
4. Water less frequently, but soak the ground with an inch of water at least once a week. Chester Mandrik of Yard Spice Organics, LLC suggests using a tuna can to measure the water. When the can is full you will have soaked the area with an inch of water. The goal is to get the water to the roots. Frequent watering just wets the surface and encourages weeds.
5. “Got grubs”? Consider Beneficial Nematodes to treat damaged areas. These microscopic creatures can be very effective in controlling grubs. Be careful to learn more about how to apply them. They are living creatures that can be damaged if they are not released under optimum conditions. There are accredited professionals in the area that can help if you do not want to attempt this on your own.
6. Get Informed – Help is available. There are many helpful organizations that provide information on using organic methods to maintain your landscapes. Some of these include TURI; OMRI; the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA); and the Ecological Landscaping Association (ELA) or search the internet for Organic Lawn Care.

Tips provided by Yard Spice Organics, LLC

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