

Natural Yard Care

SKIP THE CHEMICALS

WHAT IS NATURAL YARD CARE?

Natural yard care means working with nature to take care of our yards and gardens. It requires less water, less chemicals, and less time than conventional yard care. Learn the five easy steps to natural yard care at naturallyardcare.org.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS?

When we use traditional methods like pesticides and fertilizers to take care of our yards, we end up wasting water, producing excess yard



waste, and overusing chemicals. Pesticides include some of the most hazardous chemicals commonly used in and around the home. Products that kill insects, weeds, bacteria and fungi may be hazardous to children, pets, wildlife, and beneficial insects like bees, butterflies, and ladybugs. Rain and irrigation systems wash those pesticides off your yard and plants and carry them to storm drains and local streams.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR YARD HEALTHY

By making simple changes in how we care for our yards, we can have beautiful landscapes that are healthier for families, pets, wildlife, and our community.

- **Use compost and mulch.** Your garden will be healthier and it will reduce your water bills and yard work.
- **Use yard chemicals sparingly, if at all.** Read labels carefully to avoid overusing chemicals. Learn how to manage yard and garden pests naturally at growSMARTgrowsafe.org.
- **Be careful when and where you use yard chemicals.** Avoid applying chemicals near driveways and sidewalks, and never use them when rain is in the forecast.
- **Practice natural yard care.** Leave grass clippings on the lawn for fertilizer and use compost or nontoxic yard care products.

- **Landscape with native plants.** Use plants that require less watering, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- **Retain trees or plant new trees in your yard.** Trees help slow runoff, reduce flooding, and improve property value.

LEARN MORE

Visit naturallyardcar.org and growSMARTgrowsafe.org to learn more about building and keeping a healthy yard.

