



These recommendations have been adopted from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control's (MBPC) [YardScaping Program](#), and best management practices for the Application of Turf Pesticides and Fertilizers.

Studies conducted by the Friends of Casco Bay, with the support of MBPC, have found multiple pesticides in waters collecting runoff from residential areas. Pesticides in runoff from residential areas threaten species that normally thrive in our coastal waters. Lobsters, a commercially important species, live in the coastal waters off Cape Neddick and York and can be greatly affected by insecticides.

98% of bugs in the area are beneficial!

If not applied correctly, lawn fertilizers can do more harm than good. If fertilizer is applied during wet weather, it is not absorbed into the lawn's root system and is washed away. Once in the water, it can cause algae blooms. These blooms use oxygen and then die, leaving the water uninhabitable for other creatures.

A naturally healthy lawn needs...

- ✓ Less water
- ✓ Less money
- ✓ Less maintenance

...leaving you with more time to sit back and enjoy the summer!

Join the **Lawns to Lobsters YardScaping** movement by practicing responsible lawn care. If you use a lawn care company, start by educating yourself on their practices and encourage them to learn more about ways they can help protect our waters from lawn chemical runoff.

More information & tips are available at the following sites:

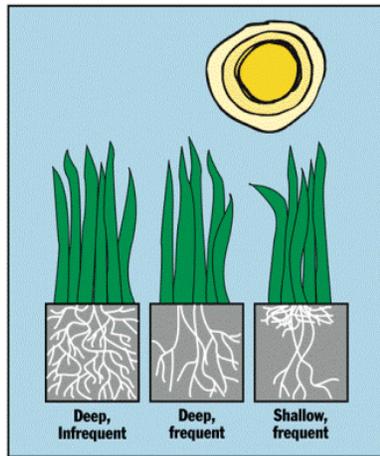
yardscaping.org
thinkfirstspraylast.org
www.yorkmaine.org/L2L



How to Have a Beautiful Lawn without Harming the Ocean

1. Mow high and water wisely!

Mow your lawn high (3-4 inches), mow regularly, and leave the clippings, which act as a natural fertilizer. Remember to only water when needed. Deeply soak your lawn with 1" of water once or twice a week at most.



2. Size matters!

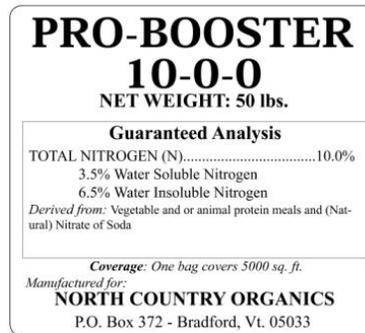
Reduce lawn area and promote site appropriate non-invasive and native plants. Use a diversity of plants and grasses for a pest and disease resistant yard.



Cinnamon Fern and Common Ninebark are great native plants.

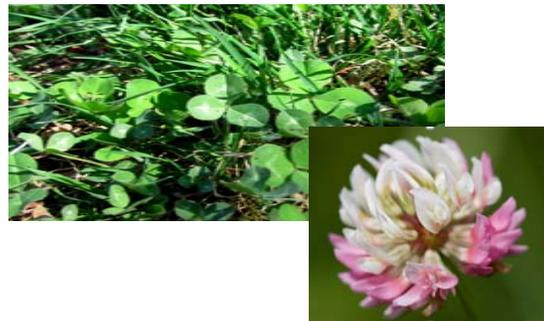
3. Fertilize?

Why fertilize with nutrients your lawn doesn't need? Lawns older than 10 years need only clippings. Younger lawns need nitrogen. Look for 10-0-0 on the bag, and when needed, apply in September.



4. Clover is good

Clover helps your lawn by choking out other weeds, complements the grasses and fills in where the grasses don't do as well. Clover is nitrogen fixing so you won't need to as much nitrogen to your lawn.



5. Got bugs? Got Weeds? Don't broadcast insecticides and herbicides

Overseed with insect-resistant fescue grasses or use beneficial nematodes, fungi, or bacteria. Liberally apply perennial ryegrass seed all season long to prevent unwanted weeds. Weed by hand and if you need to use a herbicide or insecticide, use it only in the spot needed.



6. Reduce runoff

Landscaping techniques such as rain gardens, rain barrels or vegetative buffers that slow down the flow of water from your property help keep pollutants out of the ocean, lakes, rivers, and streams.

REMEMBER: **YOUR SOIL IS ALIVE!**

