



## Your lawn may be doing more harm than good.

The quest for greener grass on your side of the fence could be harming the environment. By EPA estimates, Americans apply 90 million pounds of pesticides to their lawn and gardens every year, creating a potential hazard for adults, children and pets. In addition, synthetic fertilizers can burn your lawn and leach away into nearby waterways. And odds are your lawn products contain both of these ingredients.



## Why go organic?

Organic lawn care is a great way to a safe and healthy lawn. A healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds, insects and diseases. For a healthy lawn, you need healthy soil, alive with earthworms and loaded with beneficial microbes. Healthy soils let grass roots grow deep, making them more resistant to drought and stress. To have a safe & healthy soil, you need to avoid using pesticides and synthetic fertilizers and follow the tips at right.

# Kid & Pet Friendly Lawns

## 4 tips for a chemical free lawn

### 1. Go on an Organic Diet

Choose an [organic lawn program](#) like the new one from Espoma. Benefits include:

- No pesticides or synthetic ingredients
- Product lasts 2.5x longer than typical lawn foods
- Won't burn your lawn or leach away
- Each bag covers 5,000 sq. ft.
- Safe to use around kids & pets



### 2. Water When the Rooster Crows

- Water early in the morning to avoid evaporation loss.
- Start watering at the first signs of stress in the Spring.
- Water deeper & less frequently in the Spring to encourage deeper rooting.
- During the summer, watering should be lighter & more frequent.



### 3. No Buzz Cuts When Mowing

- Taller grass helps suppress weeds. Don't cut more than 1/3 of the grass blade height & make sure it doesn't go below 3" high.
- Keep mower blades sharp. Avoid ripping the grass to reduce chance of disease.
- Leave Grass Clippings. A mulching mower returns clippings to the lawn & can provide up to 30% of the lawn's nutritional needs.



### 4. Sweeten the Soil (if necessary)

- Lawns require a pH range of 6 – 7 to utilize nutrients.
- If the pH is too low (acidic), sweeten it with [lime](#).
- If the pH is too high (alkaline), acidify it with [sulfur](#).
- You can check the pH with a simple home test kit.



For more information about our products and services please contact our customer support department at:

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