

Patty's Plants

April Newsletter

Organic Lawn Care

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An Organic Lawn

The question is, "Can we have a beautiful healthy lawn without the use of synthetic chemicals?" The answer, "Yes we can"! Whether it's a new lawn or an existing one we can rid our lawns of weeds, diseases and pests with environmentally safe practices and products. We already know natural and organic products are safer for us, pets and the environment. I'm not going to say organic lawn care is an easier way to go, at least not right away. When first switching to organic from chemical, you may need a bit of patience. It is you



Have a safer lawn for playing Croquet

that must want to make the choice to change old habits. We have been trained for years to have the perfect lawns by our parents, grandparents, great grandparents and chemical companies. Really, how much easier could it get with all the Weed N Feed products out there. Yes, it is an easier effective fertilizer and weed killer. Did any of us want to think about the dangers the chemicals could pose to our health and the environment though? No, we just wanted the greenest, weed free lawn in the neighborhood to "Keep up with Jones". This newsletter is full of info to help you have a "Greener" lawn.

How Do We Begin?

If we begin to treat our lawns with natural soil conditioners, compost and fertilizers we will see the difference. A soil test may be needed to see just what your soil is missing. There are soil test kits available at your local garden centers or contact your local county extension office for more information on this. When I talk about a organic gardening I will keep stressing the importance of starting with a good soil base. The organic motto, "Feed the soil and the soil will feed your plants" is not just for your gardens it is also meant for your lawn. Root systems of the grass will be stronger and able to withstand long periods of drought when fed with organic fertilizers. Organic fertilizers work with the living organisms in the soil that are building colonies around the roots systems to make them stronger, pest and disease resistant. The natural fertilizers aren't really

feeding the grass itself but feeding the natural living city underground that will in turn feed the roots to make your lawn healthier. These organisms along with earthworms help breakdown thatch and grass chipping where as a chemically treated lawn builds up thatch since there isn't any organisms alive to break it down as quickly. With thick thatch the grass root system can't grow as long and will be stunted which also makes it unable to withstand dry spells. Healthy soil is the key to a great organic lawn. It is true your lawn won't be the lush dark green color immediately that a chemical fertilizer makes it, but it will get there. The organic fertilizers will not leach out in to our ground water or wash away into our storm water systems, lakes and rivers like chemical fertilizers either.

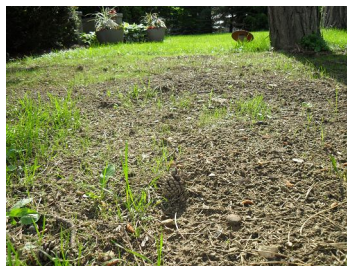
NOTE: In 2010 Wisconsin State Law did ban the use of Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizer. There are a few exceptions one of them being newly seeded, sodded lawns or soil that is deficient of phosphorus (must have a soil test done). For more info contact your local County Extension Office.

Happy Frog Soil Conditioner

This is an excellent top dressing to put on after a newly seeded lawn as well as tilling into a vegetable garden. You will be amazed at how fast your seed germinates and how healthy the grass looks. It is hand-blended in small batches, Happy Frog Soil Conditioner contains forest humus, bat guano, and earthworm castings. It also contains beneficial microbes and humic acid, both of which strengthen roots while aiding nutrient absorption. 3 cu ft, \$21.99

In both pictures grass seed was planted at the same time. My husband ran out of the soil conditioner and didn't want to come get anymore. The area he used it in grew much faster and remained healthier than the area right next to it.

Without Happy Frog Soil Conditioner



With Happy Frog Soil Condi-

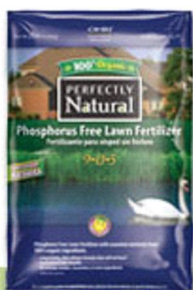
Natural Guard Corn gluten Lawn Fertilizer

Natural Guard Corn gluten Lawn Fertilizer 9-0-0 analysis. Corn Gluten will keep weed seeds as well as all other seeds from germinating. You can not use this product until after your desired seeds germinate. It is a by-product of corn processing containing a relatively high level of organic nitrogen. Feeds lawns for up to four months. It is a non-burning formulation. 30 lb bag covers 3000 sq ft. (Phosphorus-Free).

Do not use on newly seeded lawns. Allow at least 12 weeks before using corn gluten on a new lawn.

Perfectly Natural Phosphorus Free Lawn Fertilizer

This is 100% organic turf fertilizer for balanced year round feeding without concerns about Phosphorus run off into the water table. Dry, granular product. Available in 25 lb bags which covers 2,500 sq. ft. Contains hydrolyzed feather meal for an organic slow release nitrogen source over a 6 to 8 week period. Use on turf throughout the growing season. Use in the spring and



early fall for our cool-season grass. It is high in potassium to increase the overall hardiness and increase resistance to disease during periods of summer stress.

Get Growing Natural Composter

For lush lawns, gardens, and flower beds **GET Growing** naturally greens lawn within 2 weeks of application eliminates bagging by converting lawn clippings and plant materials to healthy soil saves water by helping plants use it more efficiently repairs thin grass, grows bigger vegetables and flowers breaks up compacted soil.

GET Growing's beneficial microbes recycle grass clippings and other plant materials, helping your lawn, garden, and flower beds feed themselves. It works in all geographies, all soil types, and with all plant species.

GET Growing's family friendly product technology is safe for kids and pets. Unlike fertilizers, it: builds soil structure leaves virtually no carbon foot print does not



harm wildlife or contribute to nitrate pollution of ground water, rivers, and lakes.

When to Apply: Apply GET Growing anytime from first greening through fall dormancy. Two applications per year are typically sufficient, though maintaining green grass in high traffic areas or under high heat conditions may require more frequent applications. Allow 8 weeks between applications. GET Growing is especially helpful in waking grass in the spring and preparing your lawn and perennials for winter stress.

The 32 oz hose sprayer will cover about 10,000 square feet of lawn.

Get Green Lawn Greenalizer

Want a green lawn with less work? GET Green naturally greens grass within two weeks of application . GET Green helps your lawn feed itself with nitrogen from the air for up to 8 weeks. GET Green saves water by growing larger, deeper roots. GET Green's Lawn Greenalizer formula isn't a fertilizer. It uses naturally occurring nitrogen-fixing Azospirillum bacteria to **build green grass and stimulate root growth**. It works in all geographies, in all soil types, and with all types of grass species. GET Green's family friendly product technology is **safe for kids and pets**. Unlike fertilizers, it: won't burn grass leaves **virtually no carbon footprint** does not contribute to nitrate pollution of water sources or harm wildlife
When to Apply: Apply GET Green™ anytime from first greening in early spring through fall dormancy. Use every 8 weeks or as needed. Allow 8 weeks between applications.

It will take 6 to 10 minutes to apply the 32 oz hose sprayer of GET Green™ to 10,000 square feet of lawn. Note: GET Green™ requires rainfall or sprinkler incorporation for activation.





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PATTY'S PLANTS

*Natural & Organic Garden
Supply*

www.pattysplants.com

Now Open

Come Visit Patty's at our New Location

819 E. High St.

Formerly Small Wonders Learning Center

(In the 1800's Olde Methodist Church)

On the corner of Hwy 26 and old 59

*Enjoy a cup of coffee and a lite meal at Charm-
ing B's Coffee Shoppe & More*

located in the same building

Original "Dandelion Hero"

Your ultimate weeding tool. Get it
before your neighbor
does.

Dandelions, Do you have them?
Do you want to get rid of them?
Your wait is over. No more
chemicals. No more bending
over. No more getting down on
your knees. Takes care of many
other weeds also. Use year after
year. Your neighbors will want to
borrow it. **ALERT! ALERT!** the
Dandelion Hero is here!
Get one before your neighbor does!.



Some may have so many that the Dandelion
Hero can be overwhelmed. We and you will
have to approach those
lawns differently,
Chemical free!

\$19.99 (drill not included)

