

Rain Barrel Program



Did you know that using a rain barrel to collect precious rainwater not only conserves energy, you may even save money on your next water bill?

The Great American Rain Barrels are heavy duty and come with a choice of two ports to use with either a watering can or a garden hose. Each barrel holds 60 gallons and is available in 3 earth tone colors.

Residents are eligible to purchase rain barrels at the discounted rate of for green, brown and gray and for unpainted (saving over 40% off the retail price).

Some Facts about The Great American Rain Barrel

- Versatile design, sturdy construction
- Each barrel holds 60 gallons
- Manufactured in the USA
- Choice of 3 earth tone colors
- 100% recycled containers
- 20 years of satisfied customers

To Order

Visit www.tgarb.com, find Community Programs and search for your town or call (800) 251-2352

Pickup Info

Deadline for ordering:



Recently Banned Pesticides

Do not buy products containing Chlorpyrifos (Dursban™, Lorsban™) or Diazinon, as the EPA has concluded they pose unacceptable health risks.

New Massachusetts Pesticide Law

To protect children, all schools in the state must now restrict pesticide use. It's up to you to protect them at home.

Herbicides in Compost Warning

Do not compost grass clippings treated with the herbicides clopyralid (in Confront™) or picloram, or allow grass clippings from treated lawns to go to municipal compost facilities. The resulting compost can kill plants.



This brochure is funded in part by grants from the

Toxics Use Reduction Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and the

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

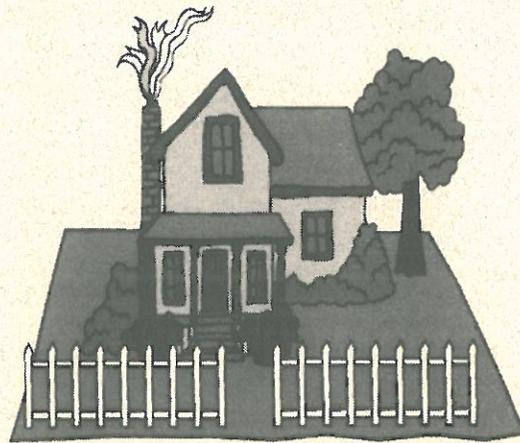
References for information presented in this brochure are available, along with more information, at:

www.ci.wellesley.ma.us/nrc/pesticide



Wellesley Natural Resources Commission
525 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02482
781 431-1019 x294
nrc@ci.wellesley.ma.us
www.ci.wellesley.ma.us/nrc/pesticide
February, 2002

HEALTHY LAWN AND LANDSCAPES



Wellesley Board of Health
in association with



Massachusetts Pesticide
Awareness Collaborative
Improving Public Health In
Massachusetts

Imagine your kids playing on grass that isn't treated with poisons...

Your kids can play on grass where you never need a "Keep off, Pesticide Application" warning sign.



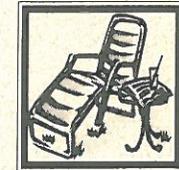
Imagine watering costs cut in half!

Healthy soils with thriving micro-organisms lead to deep-rooted grass. Deep roots require less watering, less fertilizing, and save you money.



Imagine no mowing!

Turn part of your lawn into a landscape with a diversity of native plants, hardy flowers, ground covers, trees and shrubs. Low maintenance, native plants include blueberries, azaleas, bearberry, dogwood and redbud trees.



Now is the time to make
the move to non-toxic
lawn care. For yourself,
your children, your pets
and the environment.

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SIMPLE STEPS TO ORGANIC LAWN CARE

The easiest, most cost effective way to a beautiful, healthy lawn is to work with nature, not against it. A healthy lawn needs nutrients and microbe-rich soil to develop deep rooted, dense turf that competes successfully with weeds. Dense turf is beautiful and low maintenance. It naturally resists drought, insects and diseases.



Pesticides are not necessary for a beautiful lawn. In fact, they can do more harm than good. They kill the microbial life necessary for healthy soil and can kill the pest's natural enemies. This invites disease and insect infestation, which leads to more pesticide use and traps you in an unhealthy, costly chemical cycle.

Basic lawn care tips:

- ♣ Spread 1/4" compost, or sprinkle organic fertilizer, each fall.
- ♣ Seed with a mix of hardy grasses.
- ♣ Mow high! Keep mower blades sharp.
- ♣ Leave grass clippings on lawn as fertilizer.
- ♣ Water only when soil is dry 6" down. 1" water per watering.
- ♣ Overseed in the spring and fall.
- ♣ Strive for a soil pH around 6.8.



YEARLY SCHEDULE

March & April

Sharpen mower blades.
Raise mower blade to 3 inches.
Test soil: UMass Soil Testing Lab, 413-545-2311, www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest.
Add soil amendments based on soil test.
Re-seed bare patches, or apply corn gluten to prevent weed germination.
Always leave clippings on lawn to fertilize.



May and June

Check for weeds; pull out by hand.
Re-seed bare spots.
Monitor for insect pests.
If you have grub damage, spot treat with milky spore (once every ten years) and/or with beneficial nematodes (once yearly for 2 or 3 years).

August

You may allow lawn to go dormant during drought. It will green up after rain.



September and October

Best time to seed (generously).
Fertilize if needed (sparingly) or top dress with 1/4 inch compost.
Aerate if soil is compacted.
Lime if an autumn soil test finds pH lower than about 6.8.

November

Final mowing at 2 inches for easier leaf raking.



MANAGING YOUR LAWN SERVICE



- ◆ Specify mowing high with sharp blades.
- ◆ Request corn gluten and organic fertilizer instead of "Weed and Feed" products.
- ◆ Refuse routine application of pesticides.
- ◆ Beware if a lawn service tells you a chemical application is safe. Federal EPA regulations prohibit manufacturers from making pesticide safety claims, even if used as directed. All pesticides must be treated with caution.
- ◆ Never allow unidentified products to be used on your lawn. Request safety information and read it before application. Look up toxicity at www.pesticide.org.
- ◆ Be aware that chemicals listed as inert ingredients can be highly toxic.
- ◆ Take note: many pesticides persist in lawns and soil long after the posted 24-72 hours.
- ◆ Ask for an organic program. Know that an organic lawn can take up to 3 years to fully establish.
- ◆ Organic lawn care has been defined by the Northeast Organic Farming Association in their Standards for Organic Land Care. Order a copy from www.massorganic.org.
- ◆ Organic lawn service is available in our area. Check for current listings at www.ci.wellesley.ma.us/nrc/pesticide.

FIND

Organic Gardening

Gardens Alive, gardensalive.com
Mahoney's Tool Center, Tewksbury, 851-2712

Needham Gardens, Needham, 781-455-1111
Osborne's Florist, Marblehead, 978-326-1111
Russell's Gardener, 508-358-2283
Windy Lo Nursery, 978-281-1111

Local Organizations

Poison Free Lawn Care, poisonfreelawn.org
Northeast Organic Farming Association, www.massorganic.org
Toxics Use Reduction Project, 3275, www.tu.org
Greater Boston Area Toxics Action Center, responsibility.org/psr
www.toxicsactioncenter.org

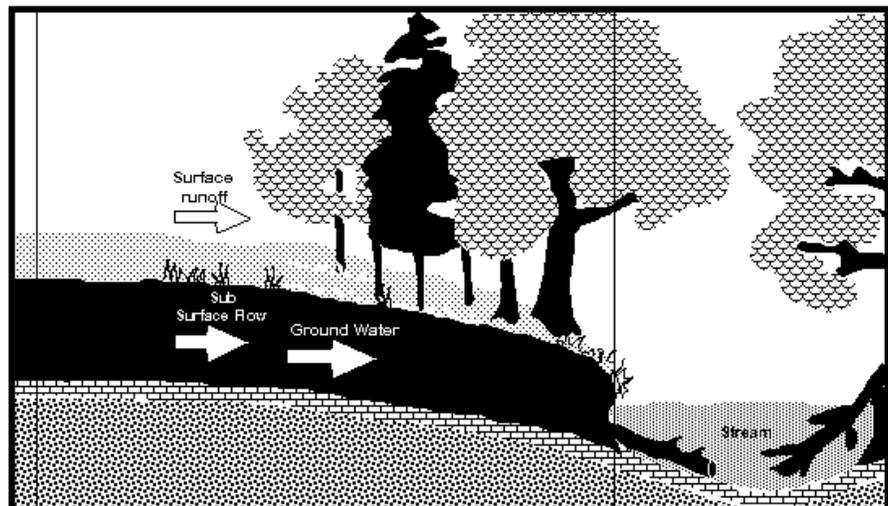
Books

Common Sense Organic Gardening, S. D. Olkowski, 1991
Handbook of Sustainable Ecological Law, Paul Sachs, 1999
Tiny Game Hunt, Hilary Klein and

INTERNET REFERENCES

- ❑ **New England Wildflower Society Plant Nursery** - Framingham's Garden in the Woods, an excellent place to go to see how native plants can be used in landscaping:
<http://www.newfs.org/nursery.htm>
- ❑ **New England Wetland Plants** - Wholesale native plants, seed mixes and erosion control materials
<http://www.newp.com/index.htm>
- ❑ **Wild Ones** - Preservation and Restoration of Native Communities
<http://www.for-wild.org/native.html>
- ❑ **Native Plant Guide** - Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center:
http://www.enature.com/guides/select_lbjnative.asp?
- ❑ **Natural Heritage** - Native Shrubs for Plantings as Wildlife Food
http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/conservation/plants/native_shrubs.htm
- ❑ **Umass Extension** - Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Information
<http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/>
- ❑ **New England Wild Flower Society's Native Plant Conservation Program**
<http://www.newfs.org/conserve/index.htm>
- ❑ **Invasive Plant Information and Resources** for Massachusetts Conservation Commissions
http://maccweb.org/resources_invasive.html
- ❑ **Invasive Plant Atlas of New England**
<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/>

A buffer zone (between the two vertical lines) allows water to slow down and be filtered before it empties into the stream or wetland. This process helps keep our groundwater and surface waters cleaner.



Easy Plants for Dry Soils

Trees

Sassafras albidum - Sassafras
Quercus prinoides - Dwarf Chinkapin Oak
Quercus rubra - Red Oak
Pinus strobus - Eastern White Pine
Sorbus americana - American Mountain-ash

Shrubs

Amelanchier arborea - Tall Shadbush
Cornus racemosa - Gray Dogwood
Gaylussacia baccata - Black Huckleberry
Ilex glabra - Inkberry Holly
Kalmia angustifolia - Sheep Laurel
Myrica pensylvanica - Bayberry
Prunus maritima - Beach Plum
Rhododendron vaseyi - Pink-shell Azalea
Rosa virginiana - Virginia Rose
Spiraea alba var latifolia - Meadowsweet
Vaccinium angustifolium - Lowbush Blueberry
Vaccinium vacillans - Woodland Blueberry
Viburnum cassinoides - Wild Raisin

Groundcover and Herbaceous Plants

Antennaria species - Pussy-toes
Aquilegia species - Columbine
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi - Bearberry
Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly Weed
Carex pensylvanica - Pennsylvania Sedge
Gaultheria procumbens - Wintergreen
Heuchera cultivars - Alumroot, Coralbells
Iris verna v. smalliana - Clumping Dwarf Iris
Maianthemum canadense - Canada Mayflower
Potentilla tridentata - Three-toothed Cinquefoil
Rudbeckia fulgida v. sullivantii - Black-eyed Susan
Schizachyrium scoparium - Little Bluestem
Waldsteinia fragarioides - Barren Strawberry

Ferns

Dennstaedtia punctilobula - Hayscented Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas Fern

Easy Plants for Moist Soils

Trees

Acer Rubrum - Red Maple
Betula nigra 'Heritage' - River Birch
Cercis canadensis - Eastern Redbud
Liriodendron tulipifera - Tulip Tree
Quercus palustris - Pin Oak

Shrubs

Alnus serrulata - Common Alder
Amelanchier canadensis - Thicket Shadbush
Clethra spp. - Sweet Pepperbush
Cornus amomun - Silky Dogwood
Hamamelis virginiana - Common Witchhazel
Ilex verticillata - Winterberry
Kalmia latifolia - Mountain Laurel
Lindera benzoin - Spicebush
Myrica gale - Sweet Gale
Rosa palustris - Swamp Rose
Sambucus canadensis - Elderberry
Taxus canadensis - Eastern Yew
Vaccinium corymbosum - Highbush Blueberry
Viburnum cassinoides - Wild Rasin
Viburnum recognitum - Arrowwood
Viburnum lantanoides - Hobblebush

Groundcover and Herbaceous Plants

Arisaema triphyllum - Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Eupatorium - Eupatoriadelphus - Joe-Pye Weed
Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal

Flower

Maianthemum - Smilacina
stellatum - Star Flower
Phlox divaricata - Wood Phlox
Podophyllum peltatum -
Mayapple
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
- New England Aster

Trillium grandiflorum - Showy Trillium
Vaccinium macrocarpon - Cranberry

Ferns

Athyrium filix-femina - Lady Fern
Matteuccia struthiopteris - Ostrich Fern



Appendix 2

Easy Plants for Wet Soils

Trees

- Platanus occidentalis - American Sycamore
- Quercus palustris - Pin Oak
- Acer Rubrum - Red Maple
- Fraxinus Pennsylvania - Green Ash

Shrubs

- Aronia arbutifolia - Red Chokeberry
- Ilex glabra - Inkberry Holly
- Ilex verticillata - Winterberry
- Lindera benzoin - Spicebush
- Rhododendron viscosum - Swamp Azalea
- Vaccinium corymbosum - Highbush Blueberry

Groundcover and Herbaceous Plants

- Asclepias incarnata - Swamp Milkweed
- Caltha palustris - Marsh Marigold
- Camassia species - Camas Lily
- Iris versicolor - Blue Flag Iris
- Liatris spicata - Marsh Blazing Star
- Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower
- Rubus hispidus - Dewberry
- Symplocarpus foetidus - Skunk Cabbage

Ferns

- Osmunda cinnamomea - Cinnamon Fern
- Osmunda claytoniana - Interrupted Fern
- Osmunda regalis - Royal Fern



Green Ash



Cinnamon Fern

LOCAL NURSERIES THAT SELL NATIVE PLANTS

<p>Bigelow Nurseries, Inc. 455 West Main Street (NOT Rt. 20) P.O. Box 718 Northboro, MA 01532 Phone: 508-845-2143 Fax: 508-842-9245</p>	<p>A semi-local nursery that has a standard variety of native and non-native plants. http://www.bigelownurseries.com/</p>
<p>New England Wetland Plants, Inc 820 West St. Amherst, MA 01002 Phone: 413-548-8000 Fax: 413-549-4000</p>	<p>This nursery sells seed mixes for a variety of conditions and will ship seed and plants, but encourage you to pick them up. These experts in wetland plants will answer questions. About 2 hours from Wellesley. http://www.newp.com/</p>
<p>New England Wild Flower Society 180 Hemenway Road Framingham, MA 01701 Phone: 508-877-7630 TTY: 508-877-6553</p>	<p>NEWFS runs 2 nurseries specializing in native plants of all kinds. One is in Framingham at the <i>Garden in the Woods</i>, the Society's museum and garden idea center for wildflowers and other native plants. Their other nursery, <i>Nasami Farms</i>, is in Whately, Mass. If you want to get creative, this is the place for you. http://www.newfs.org/nursery.htm</p>
<p>Russell's Garden Center 397 Boston Post Rd (Rt. 20) Wayland, MA 01778 Phone: 508-358-2283 Fax: 508-358-2473</p>	<p>A semi-local nursery that has a standard variety of native and non-native plants. A treat to walk in the greenhouses in winter. http://www.russellsgardencenter.com/index.htm</p>
<p>Weston Nurseries of Hopkinton 93 East Main Street (Rt. 135) P.O. Box 186 Hopkinton, MA 01748 Phone: 508-435-3414</p>	<p>A semi-local nursery that does some of its own hybridizing. It has a variety of native - and non-native plants. http://www.westonnurseries.com/</p>