

Where the Grass is Greener:



Montgomery County, MD Lawn Care News

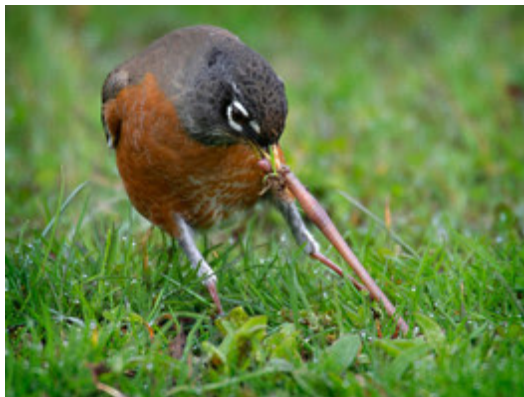


Welcome to the Department of Environmental Protection's newsletter about organic lawns and lawn care.

For more green news, sign up for the **My Green Montgomery newsletter**.

And check out **our great lawn care website!**

What's New?



Montgomery County's Pesticide Law has recently changed.

Most products, including "Weed and Feed" formulations cannot be used on lawns. Only organic pesticides are allowed.

This website provides all the information you need to find if a product is legal to use.

If your community or landscaping crew would like information on how to switch to organic lawn care, visit our extensive lawn care pages at **www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns**, or invite DEP to give a presentation to your community. Inquire at **AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov**

Lawn Care Tips



It's a New Year--Is it time for a new lawn mower?



If you are in the market for a new lawn mower, take some tips from the pros on buying a new electric lawn mower!

Electric lawn mowers are a quieter and cleaner alternative to gas mowers and have no harmful fumes to breathe in while you are working. They also often require less maintenance than gas mowers.

We've broken down the top things to consider when buying an electric mower [in this article](#).

In the Community



Do you take your shoes off? Reduce pesticide exposure with a door mat.

Lush, green lawns are often a place for children to play. Lawns can also be a place where children, pets, and adults are exposed to potentially harmful pesticides—and you could be tracking those pesticides right into your home or business.

Chronic exposure to low amounts pesticides in children has been linked to negative health effects, including cancers, asthma, and neurological and behavioral issues like ADHD. Children are particularly sensitive to pesticides since they take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and their developing organs are often more sensitive to hazardous chemicals.



While you might think your family and pets are safe from lawn or garden pesticides inside your home or business, think again. Pesticides from outdoor surfaces are brought in on shoes, clothing, and pets, and accumulate in carpets or dust. Children and pets spend more time with bare skin on floors, and putting objects from floors in their mouth, exposing their small bodies even further to pesticides tracked inside.

How to reduce pesticide exposure in your home:

In addition to avoiding the use of pesticides on your own property, you can reduce home exposure to pesticides by removing shoes before entering, or immediately after entering the home, removing old carpets and replacing with hard floors, covering carpets or furniture with clean sheets when children are playing, washing dogs frequently if there has been pesticide use and putting sheets or towels on the furniture they rest on, and controlling dust with wet rags or wet vacs.

Limiting the pesticides that are applied to lawns, playgrounds and around childcare facilities will limit the exposure of children to potentially hazardous chemicals, but it's important we all do our part to reduce community exposure from pesticide use in any outdoor space. Remember—a pest is just a symptom of a problem! Look for ways to control the problem before turning to a pesticide for a solution.

http://www.nccch.ca/sites/default/files/Residential_Exposure_to_Pesticides_Toolkit_Oct_2011.pdf



Want to learn more about organic lawn care? Join us for an event!

Montgomery County and partner groups are providing multiple free events throughout the County this winter where you can learn about organic lawn care. **Check out our events calendar.**

More events will be added for February through April!
Upcoming events are already scheduled for February 27,
March 10,16,18, and 24, and April 30th.



TOP 7 TIPS FOR AN ORGANIC LAWN!

- ✓ Mow grass high (taller than 3 in.) with sharp blades.
- ✓ Leave grass clippings on your lawn after mowing.
- ✓ Only water during dry spells.
- ✓ Stop using synthetic chemicals or fertilizers.
- ✓ Loosen compacted soil with a core aerator to add holes.
- ✓ Add materials, such as compost, to support healthy soil biology.
- ✓ Overseed the lawn every fall.

For more lawn care tips, visit:
montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns
Or talk to your lawn care provider!



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