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**Courtesy Copy: Spring into Organic Lawn Care!**

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## Where the Grass is Greener:



Welcome to the Department of Environmental Protection's new monthly newsletter about organic lawns and lawn care. Discover lawn care tips and tools, learn about life in the soil, and connect with us on environmental stewardship of land and water.

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# What's New?



## Is a new lawn mower in your future?

We're getting the lawn mowers out, and prepping for several months of trimming the grass. Some of us are thinking it's time for a new lawn mower.

If you are thinking of a new mower, these are some of the top features to consider:

- Electric powered motor, preferably corded
- Mower deck adjusts to cut higher than 3"
- Mulching ability (cuts grass into smaller bits)

You can check out more tips about mowers and mowing at our [website](#).

Want tips on how to easily use a lawnmower with a cord? We found this [video](#) pretty helpful.

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# Lawn Care Tips





## There's value in laziness-- become a "lazy" lawn mower!

Great news -- you or your teens can sleep in every other Saturday, and skip mowing the lawn so often. Or save money by scheduling your landscaper fewer times per month.

### Great for pollinators, and your wallet

Researchers have found that reducing mowing to every two weeks, or even every three weeks, allows more flowers to bloom and attracts more bees and other important insects. Not to mention, it's practical, economical, and saves time. [Read their findings here.](#)

### Tall grass is better for the air and water

Tall grass requires less water, as the tall blades send more energy towards root growth. The strong roots help store and capture water, and also soak up more water during a rain storm. Meanwhile, we can reduce energy use and emissions from the gas or electricity used to power our mowers and keep our air clean. [Learn how a healthy lawn can be a benefit for our environment.](#)

### Don't fear the sting

Create flower and meadow habitat near your lawn where bees and other insects can nest, so they won't nest where you mow. Get more comfortable with bee pollinators in your lawn by [reading more here.](#)

### Leave grass clippings

Grass clippings are a very important source of nitrogen and phosphorus for your lawn, and break down in just a few days. If you don't like the appearance of grass

clippings, use a mulching mower -- the grass clippings will be so small you'll hardly even notice them, and they will decay faster.

## Soil Science Shed



### Should you worry about soil pH?

How many of us have been told we should change our soil pH with lime or Sulphur if it isn't at a "magic" number that grass is known to grow

best at?

We're confident that after you learn more in our [article](#), you'll never try to mess with your pH again. And you'll save money at the same time!

## In the Community



Join us for a day of fun at the [Montgomery County GreenFest](#) on Saturday, May 5th at Jesup Blair Local Park in Silver Spring!

The organic lawn care program will be on hand with demonstrations on lawn aeration, seeding, and making homemade compost tea, and you can compete in a ring toss with our pink flamingoes, so be sure to come by.



GreenFest has tons of fun activities for the whole family from kids tree-climbing, electric cars, workshops, music and exhibitors, food, and more. We hope to see you there.

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