

Clean Ocean Action's ~10 Tips For Lawn and Garden~



- 1. Reduce the size of your lawn.** Stone & grass lawns are high maintenance, expensive, and add to run-off problems. Minimize lawn area and paved surfaces by planting native plants that require less maintenance. Try to use succulents and drought resistant plants.
- 2. Enjoy a healthy and fertilizer-free yard.** Avoid using fertilizers to reduce polluted run-off. Test soil (or require lawn service to do so) to select an appropriate fertilizing regimen for your yard. If you must fertilize, use slow-release nitrogen (water insoluble) or organic fertilizers minimally when weather is warm (not hot). For a greener lawn, use natural sources of nitrogen, such as composted manure.
- 3. Aerate your soil** and remove dead organics by raking. This promotes a stronger lawn and reduces the need to use fertilizers or pesticides.
- 4. Think before you mow.** Make sure mower blades are sharp to prevent tearing and injuring grass. Maintain a mowing height of 3+ inches to keep your grass healthy. Mow it and leave it! Grass clippings are natural fertilizers. Consider using a push or reel mower. Mow high and mow often to reduce stress on grass, retain moisture, shade out weeds, reduce clumping, and keep soil cool.
- 5. Water in the early morning and only when the soil is dry.** Water deeply to encourage root growth and to reduce the frequency of watering. Cultivate and mulch your gardens to help retain moisture.
- 6. Install rain barrels** at your house downspouts to reuse rain water and save money. Rain is naturally soft water with less minerals, chlorine, and other chemicals.



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7. Diversify your lawn. Plant clover as an alternative to grass – it doesn't need fertilizer. Dandelion leaves make great salads!

8. Start a compost pile. Leaves and garden waste, as well as kitchen waste (except meat, fish, & citrus products), can be used to create a nutrient-rich fertilizer to till into garden.

9. Avoid using chemical pesticides or herbicides. Chemicals applied to the lawn or garden run-off into waterways, kill beneficial insects, and are long lasting. Large insects (e.g., Japanese beetles) can be hand picked from plants. Pheromone traps and biological non-toxic controls are available at garden centers.

10. Maintain a naturally vegetated buffer or area of native plantings along waterways to filter pollutants and discourage waterfowl from polluting with their waste. NEVER apply fertilizer within 25-feet of a waterbody.



Nonpoint source or "pointless" pollution is the #1 cause of coastal water pollution. This pollution has many sources, including stormwater runoff that carries litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and waste from leaky sewage systems into waterways. Every time it rains polluted stormwater travels to the nearest storm drain or waterbody that ultimately drains to the ocean. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By making small changes we can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.

For more information and the complete 10 Tip Series visit:



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