

Five Steps to: Natural Yard Care

Natural Yard Care Buyer's Guide



Build healthy soil



Plant right for
your site



Practice smart
watering

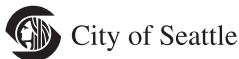


Think twice before
using pesticides



Practice natural
lawn care

To learn more about Natural Yard Care,
call the Natural Lawn and Garden
Hotline at 206-633-0224 or email
info@lawngardenhotline.org.



Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division



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Natural products will help create a beautiful yard while protecting the environment and conserving resources. This guide offers natural care alternatives that get the job done in a safe and healthy way.

Goal	Traditional Approach	Natural Solution	Benefits of Going Natural
Healthy, Vibrant Lawn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed & feed • Quick release fertilizer • Insecticide • Herbicide • Collect lawn clippings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric mulching mower or push reel mower • Deep watering, less often • Regulate water usage with water timer • Organic or slow release fertilizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clippings provide free nutrients • Less fertilizer needed • Release nutrients over time • Protect kids and pets • Use less water
Conserve Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent, shallow watering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep watering, less often • Water timers and wands • Rain gauge • Soaker hoses or drip irrigation • Low water-use plants • Bark mulch • Compost • Electric mulching mower or push reel mower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use shared resource efficiently • Deep watering promotes healthy plants • Use less water • Minimize evaporation • Build healthy soil • Preserve a finite resource
Thriving Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick release fertilizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic or slow release fertilizer • Compost • Plants suited to the Northwest and yard conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release nutrients over time • Healthy, attractive plants • Less plant maintenance
Moss-Free Lawn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilizer with moss control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aeration • Compost • Mulch mowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moss less likely to occur when lawn is healthy
Healthy Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick release fertilizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic or slow release fertilizer • Compost • Mulch with grass clippings • Mulch mowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release nutrients over time • Improve soil health • Grow healthy plants • Clippings provide free nutrients • Fewer weeds
Weed-Free Beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed killers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compost mulch • Bark mulch • Hand weeding tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppress weeds • Provide nutrients • Promote healthy plants • Protect kids and pets
Pest-Free Yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecticide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecticidal soap • Ladybugs, other beneficial organisms • Less toxic slug bait 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer for kids and pets • Won't kill beneficial insects • Protect birds and wildlife
No Crane Fly Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecticide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compost • Mulch mowing • Aeration • Monitor for damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy, vibrant lawn will outgrow any damage • Safer for kids and pets

This material will be provided in alternate formats upon request by contacting the King County Solid Waste Division at 206-296-4466, 1-800-325-6165, ext. 6-4466, TTY Relay: 711, www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd