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# Lawn and Garden Guide

## *A Beautiful Yard in Harmony with Nature*

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Member communities: *Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake, and Wixom.*

### *Earth Friendly Fertilizers*

Look for the bright green stickers at:

**Aco Hardware**  
Southfield  
Farmington  
Farmington Hills

**English Gardens**  
West Bloomfield  
Royal Oak/Troy

**Jean's Hardware**  
Farmington Hills

**Glenda's Garden Center**  
Novi

For a complete list, visit  
[www.healthylandscapes.com](http://www.healthylandscapes.com)



## Healthy Lawn Tips

### Lawn Fertilization

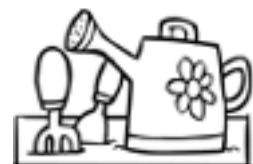
- Select an “Earth Friendly” fertilizer. Look for the bright green stickers that indicate fertilizers that have slow-release nitrogen and low or no phosphorus. These fertilizers promote steady, uniform growth and are better for the environment.
- Do not over fertilize. Measure your lawn and only apply as much fertilizer as recommended on the bag.
- Sweep up any fertilizer that falls onto the sidewalk and driveway. Otherwise, it will wash away into storm drains and directly into your local streams and rivers.
- Do not fertilize before a big rain. Again, most of the fertilizer will wash away and end up fertilizing algal blooms in the rivers.
- Fertilize in the fall to promote deep root growth.

### Watering

Home lawns in Michigan generally require 0.5 to 1.5 inches of water per week. Light, daily watering (15-20 minutes per day) is the best schedule for a healthy lawn. If this isn't practical, try watering for 30-40 minutes every other day.

Water either in the morning or in the afternoon (especially to cool the lawn on very hot days). Don't water in the evening. The lawn will stay moist during the night and this will make it more susceptible to disease.

Be aware of any watering restrictions that may be put in place during the hot summer months.



# More Healthy Lawn Tips

## Core Aeration

If you are like most homeowners in southeastern Michigan, your soil has a high clay content. The more time you and your family spend on the lawn, the more compacted it gets. This is where aeration comes in. Core aeration punches holes into your lawn and allows oxygen to get in. Grass roots will soon fill in the holes and your lawn will thank you! Core aerators can be rented from your local home improvement or hardware store.

## Benefits of Mulch

Grass clippings, shredded leaves and other shredded yard materials can be used as mulch. Why mulch?

- Reduce the need for watering and weeding.
- Reduce soil compaction and stabilize soil temperature
- Enrich your soil through the gradual decomposition of natural yard materials
- Control insects and diseases.



## Yard Waste FAQs

### Can I use plastic bags for my yard waste?

No, plastic bags cannot be used. This is because the plastic doesn't decompose and creates problems for compost facilities, such as odors. You can either use paper lawn bags or a can with a yard waste sticker on it.

### Do I have to bag my grass clips and leaves?

No! Bagging should be a last resort. Grasscycling, mulching and backyard composting are all much better options.

### When is my yard waste picked up?

Yard waste is picked up the same day as your trash and recycling. Have it all out at the curb by 7am the day of your pick-up. Yard waste is only collected during a specified yard waste season, generally early April – the end of November. Call your DPW or RRRASOC for exact dates. Yard waste put out during the winter months will not be picked up.



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