



David B. Cohen
Mayor

The Newton Health Department asks...

IS YOUR LAWN A LUSH, GREEN *HEALTH HAZARD*?

Did you know?

- Herbicides (weed killers), insecticides (bug killers) and fungicides (mold killers) are poisons.
- Even at low levels, these pesticides can cause acute and long-term health problems for people and animals.
- Many of the ingredients in pesticide products are not tested for their long-term health and developmental effects, especially in children.
- You can have a beautiful lawn and protect your health and the environment at the same time!

Learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

IPM is a problem-solving approach to weed and insect control. IPM experts ask: *What is the pest? What does it need to grow?* IPM strategies prevent and correct the source of pest problems. For example, adjust watering and mowing practices or improve repair and maintenance to correct conditions that invite and nurture undesirable bugs or weeds. If you use a landscape service, insist on *pesticide-free* organic lawn care.

The City of Newton has adopted IPM for its buildings and grounds. The Newton Health Department and the Green Decade Coalition/Newton are working to share information about the hazards of pesticides and to reduce the use of pesticides in Newton.

OUTSIDE

- ✓ Evaluate soil, light, and drainage.
- ✓ Test Soil for pH level. (Goal: 6.8 to 7.0)
- ✓ Select the right plants for the site.
- ✓ Encourage deep roots. Water deep and mow high (2-1/2" to 4").
- ✓ Use hardy grass mixes. Over-seed bare spots.
- ✓ Use organic fertilizer.
- ✓ Leave clippings on the lawn.

INSIDE

- ✓ Avoid conditions that attract or nourish pests.
- ✓ Adopt housekeeping practices that get rid of pests' food, water, entry and hiding places.



Healthy Lawns and Landscapes, the Green Decade Coalition/Newton's new brochure, explains the basics of organic lawn care and how to find organic landscaping and pest control products and services.

The Newton Health Department (617) 552-7058 www.ci.newton.ma.us
 GreenCAP/Green Decade Coalition/Newton (617) 965-1995 www.greendecade.org
 US EPA www.epa.gov/pesticides
 Northeast Organic Farming Association www.nofamass.org
 NOFA Accredited Organic Landcare Professionals www.organiclandcare.net
 Toxics Use Reduction Institute, **UMass Lowell** www.turi.org



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