

Five Steps to: Natural Yard Care

Natural Yard Care Buyer's Guide



1 Build healthy soil



2 Plant right for your site



3 Practice smart watering

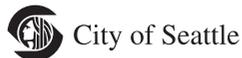


4 Think twice before using pesticides



5 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



Natural Yard Care Buyer's Guide

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.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste