

GO NATURAL

10 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Pest control products are most effective when used in combination with natural lawn and garden care techniques. Follow these simple tips to manage lawn and garden pests the natural way.

1. **Spread grass seed** every Spring or Fall. Choose a blend of seed, including perennial ryegrass and fescue and note the sun/shade guides on the seed packages.
2. **Use a lawn aerator** to help soil breathe. Aerators can be rented or purchased at most garden centres or equipment rental locations.
3. **Leave grass clippings** on your lawn. The City does not collect grass clippings at the curb. Save time and effort by leaving them on the lawn, where they will provide valuable nutrients and moisture.
4. **Raise your lawn mower** to a height of 7.5 cm (3 inches). Longer grass will have deeper roots and crowd out weeds.
5. **Water your lawn** once a week with 2.5 cm (1 inch) of water unless it has rained. Use a tuna can or a rain gauge to measure the amount of water your lawn receives. A deep watering will encourage healthy roots. Use a soaker hose for garden beds to conserve water and minimize moulds and disease on leaves.
6. **Pull weeds** by hand when the soil is moist. You're sure to get more of the roots and disturb less of the soil. Drop some grass seed in the hole to discourage weeds from returning.
7. **Spread organic material** such as compost on your lawn each year to restore valuable nutrients and build soil structure.
8. **Apply natural fertilizer** in late Spring and Fall. Don't over-fertilize – follow label directions carefully.
9. **Spread mulch** (e.g. leaves, bark chips) in garden beds and around trees to retain moisture and control weeds.
10. **Match plants** and grasses to your property conditions. Take note of the soil type and sun conditions and plant what grows best. Choose native plants where possible.

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