

DEQ Launches Web site about Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care

Log on to www.healthylawns.org for natural lawn care tips.

Finding information about how to have a great-looking lawn without using chemical fertilizers and weed killers is now easier with the launch of a new Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Web site.

The DEQ Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families site at www.healthylawns.org includes information about how our lawn care habits influence water quality and tips on how to practice natural lawn care.

Misuse and overuse of pesticides and chemical fertilizers on the lawn can lead to lawn problems, and the chemicals themselves are often washed off the lawn by rain, headed for the storm drain and ultimately to Oregon's rivers. Once in the river, the chemicals can cause problems for fish.

Natural lawn care can actually produce a healthier lawn. Healthy grass can help keep weed populations down.

The Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families Web site includes an interactive demonstration of how our lawn care habits affect the health of our rivers. The site also has videos of Oregonians telling stories about how they successfully use natural methods to create healthy, attractive lawns without chemicals.

Visitors to the site are invited to take a pledge to use alternatives to lawn and garden chemicals. Those who pledge will receive a "Natural Lawn Care Practiced Here" lawn sign.

The Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families Web site was designed by White Horse, a Portland online marketing agency, and funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. DEQ partnered with Metro, Clean Water Services, the City of Eugene and the Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams to create www.healthylawns.org

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