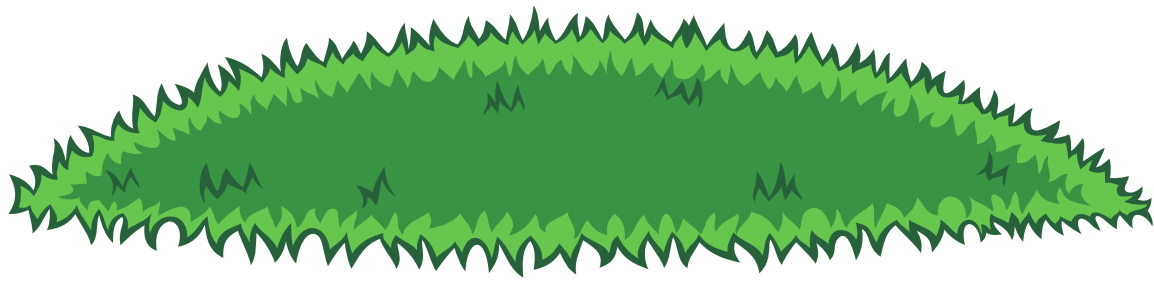


# 10 Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Yard



"Go green" (deter insects with kindness, fight weeds with eco-friendly herbicides, go native!)

Don't let those [invasive] species go

Install a rain garden

Compost yard waste

Scoop the poop

Don't be a drip

Drain swimming pools wisely

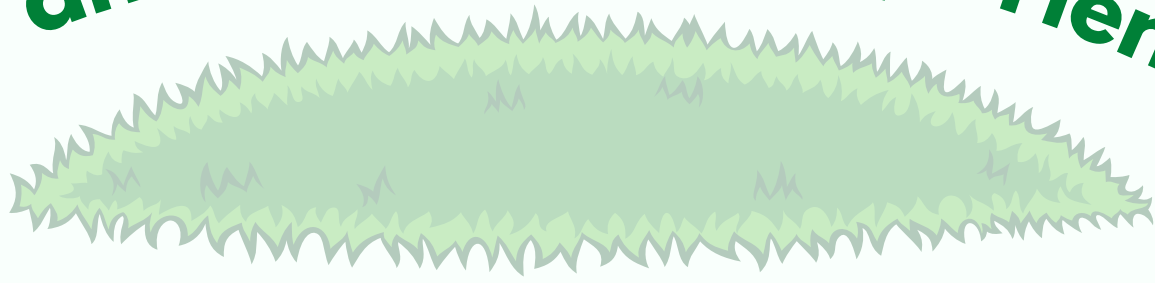
Deadwood is good wood

Wetland Resource Areas are wonderful

Protect Wetlands by planting a vegetative buffer



# 10 Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Yard



## 1. "GO GREEN"

Minimize and avoid fertilizers and pesticides. When fertilizers and pesticides are applied in excess they discharge into rivers, streams, and wetlands, so limiting their use can make a big difference. Even better, convert manicured lawns to natural meadow, beds of native perennials, shrubs, or forest. Here are three quick tips for a great, green lawn:

- a. Deter Insects with Kindness - Keep them away with natural deterrents such as lemon, clover, and peppermint oil.
- b. Fight Weeds with Eco-Friendly Herbicides - Try 20-30% vinegar or corn gluten based products. You can also pour boiling water or white vinegar on smaller weeds, like ones in walkway cracks.
- c. Go Native - When landscaping your property, use native species (plants indigenous to Massachusetts) whenever possible. They require less water than traditional turf grass does because they have deeper roots and can store more water. Also, many of these species provide food and cover for local wildlife, providing a sanctuary from suburban sprawl. For more information, see: [www.greenscapes.org](http://www.greenscapes.org) and [www.nativeplanttrust.org](http://www.nativeplanttrust.org).

## 2. DON'T LET THOSE [INVASIVE] SPECIES GO

Although exotic animals can be great pets and ornamental plants can make beautiful decorations, many of these species are invasive. In fact, some of the same characteristics that make these species desirable, such as hardiness and rapid growth, are the same characteristics that allow them to out-compete native species in the wild. So never release non-native species out into the wild. For more on what you can do, see: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/invasive-plants>

## 3. INSTALL A RAIN GARDEN

See [soakitupfranklinma.org](http://soakitupfranklinma.org) for more information.

## 4. COMPOST YARD WASTE

Yard waste, even grass clippings, can have adverse impact to the ecosystem due to the release of chemicals, such as nitrogen, during decomposition. The same chemicals that harm ecosystems can also be a great source of fertilizer for your lawn. Compost your yard waste outside of the Buffer Zone to Wetland Resource Areas and thin spread the decomposed matter as a cheap and easy fertilizer! Franklin also has a Transfer Station/Recycling Center which can take all of your yard waste and even distribute composted material if you need it!

## 5. SCOOP THE POOP

It's a dirty job, but pet waste contains parasites that can cause human (and pet) health problems and can be harmful to our Wetland Resource Areas. Please pick up after your pet and never throw pet waste into a storm drain or waterway.

## 6. DON'T BE A DRIP

Oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from cars, trucks, lawnmowers, and boats are highly toxic to both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. If you notice a leak, fix it immediately to keep these toxins from polluting our environment.

## 7. DRAIN SWIMMING POOLS WISELY

Discharge chlorinated water over landscaping using the following steps: (1) shut off the chlorination system or stop adding chlorine one week before draining pool water; (2) make sure the pH level is between 6.5 and 8.5, the normal pH range of surface and ground waters; (3) Drain pool water where it will not flow directly into a street, gutter, Wetland Resource Area, or onto someone else's property.

## 8. DEADWOOD IS GOOD WOOD

Deadwood is an essential component of our ecosystem as it provides forage and habitat for a myriad of organisms. Deadwood fosters forest life. Think twice before you "clean up" or clear cut your forest and always contact the Franklin Conservation Department if you're near Wetland Resource Areas.

## 9. WETLAND RESOURCE AREAS ARE WONDERFUL

Wetland Resource Areas are valuable because they reduce flooding, provide wildlife habitat, help recharge aquifers, and filter polluted water. Always contact the Franklin Conservation Department before you consider working near Wetland Resource Areas.

## 10. PROTECT WETLANDS BY PLANTING A VEGETATIVE BARRIER

A vegetative Buffer is particularly important to prevent runoff and soil erosion. A native vegetative Buffer Zone will help maintain water quality, recreational resources, wildlife habitat, and property value. Contact the Franklin Conservation Department to get started today!