

## Clean Ocean Action's 10 Tips For Lawn and Garden



1. **Reduce the size of your lawn.** Lawns are high maintenance, expensive, and add to runoff problems. (See tip #10.)
2. **Don't treat your lawn** or garden until you test the soil. Soil-testing kits are available at garden centers.
3. **Aerate your soil** and remove dead organics by raking. This produces a stronger lawn and reduces the need to use fertilizers or pesticides.
4. **Use organic fertilizers** to condition the soil, if needed, and use minimally. For a greener lawn, use natural sources of nitrogen, such as composted manure.
5. **Water only when the soil is dry.** Water deeply to encourage root growth and to reduce the frequency of watering. Garden centers sell meters, gauges, and automatic sprinkler shut-off valves, which help minimize over-watering and save money. Cultivate and mulch your gardens to help retain moisture.
6. **Install rain barrels** at your house downspouts to reuse rain water and save money. Rain is a naturally soft water with less minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals.
7. **Mow high and mow often** to reduce stress on grass, retain moisture, shade out weeds, reduce clumping, and keep soil cool. Mow without a bag and leave the clippings to fertilize naturally.
8. **Start a compost pile.** Leaves and garden waste, as well as kitchen waste (except meat, fish, & citrus products), can be used to create a nutrient-rich fertilizer to till into the garden.
9. **Avoid using chemical pesticides or lawn services that use chemicals.** Any chemicals applied to the lawn or garden run off into waterways, kill beneficial insects, and are long lasting. Large insects (e.g., Japanese beetles) can be hand picked from plants. Pheromone traps and biological non-toxic controls are available at garden centers.
10. **Plant native plants and create a wildlife habitat.** Plants produce oxygen, remove carbon dioxide, reduce erosion, provide shade, stabilize soil, and are habitat for many creatures. Try to use succulents and drought-resistant plants.



Nonpoint source or "pointless" pollution is the number one cause of coastal water pollution. Pointless pollution is caused by many sources, including runoff of litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides and soil erosion, leaky septic systems, and faulty sewage and stormwater systems. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By keeping informed and making small changes, you can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.

Please indicate other tips you would like to receive:

- Anglers
- Beach
- Boaters
- Cleaning
- Daily Living
- Drivers
- "If You See It...Report It"
- Kids
- Kitchen
- Lawn & Garden
- "No Butts About It: Use Your Ashtray"
- Personal Watercraft Operators
- Shore Visitors



- I would like information about COA:**
- Beach Sweeps
  - Newsletter
  - Special Events
  - Presentations
  - Educational Programs
  - Storm Drain Stenciling
  - Volunteer Opportunities

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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If you have a pointless pollution tip, send it our way and we'll share it with others. To sponsor a tip card, contact COA's Events and Development Director at 732-872-0111.

For more information visit [www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org)

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