



*Use compost as a top dressing for your lawn*

exotic plants. To protect pollinators, use organic or least-toxic pesticides

**8. Pile It On**

Build a compost bin and fill it with grass clippings, leaves and other organic material. Use the compost as mulch or natural fertilizer to improve soil health.

**9. Take It To The Max**

Cut your lawn three inches high and leave clippings in place.

**10. Be a Good Neighbor**

Talk to your neighbors about your native plant selections, non-pesticide lawn care and other environmental choices you're making.

Attach your business card or company information here

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Horticulture Diagnostic Lab Hotline

**Monday — Friday  
9:00 a.m. — 12:00**

- Plant Pathology
- Insect Identification
- Soil pH Testing
- Control Recommendations for Professionals and Homeowners
- Plant Care Information

It's no miracle . . .It's Turf Love.



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# 10 TIPS

*How You Can Protect the Environment and Have a Healthy Landscape*

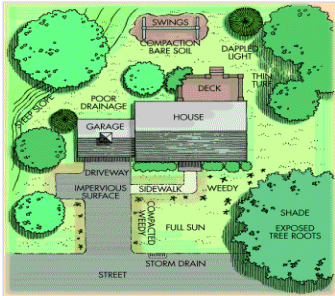


Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Putnam County

# How You Can Protect the Environment and Have a Healthy Yard

Your property can be a haven for birds and wildlife as well as a safe place for your children to play. You can handle most plant problems, including those with lawns, by choosing healthy plants and giving them the proper site and care. If insects and diseases do attack your plants, you can often correct the problem organically with biological controls, physical barriers and non-toxic products. Then, if you use pesticides only when absolutely necessary and follow label directions scrupulously, you will have an environmentally healthy property.

## 1. Know Your Yard



Learn about the soils, plants, climate and wildlife around your home. Make a birds-eye view drawing of your home, showing sunlight patterns, drainage and topography.

## 2. Choose the Right Plant For The Right Place

Learn the care requirements and mature size of plants you want. For a less demanding garden, choose plants that tolerate drought and require little fertilizer and pruning. Avoid invasive species.

## 3. Be Water Wise

Water lawns only when needed. One inch per week is plenty in our area.



Keep runoff to a minimum by using the one-inch-per-week standard

For tree and shrub plantings, cover bare soil with mulch and use drip irrigation. Use drought-tolerant and shade-tolerant ground covers in shady and rocky areas where it's hard to grow lawn.

## 4. Know Your Pests

Identify the pest: insects, diseases and four-legged animals that attack plants before you think about controls, then use the least-toxic methods to control them. Your garden center or nursery should have information on low-

impact products, and you can get university-based research from your local Cooperative Extension service.

## 5. Prevent Pollution

Prevent fertilizer, pesticides, yard debris



*Ilex verticillata*, our native winterberry holly, is a magnet for birds and a beautiful addition to your winter landscape

and pet waste from entering water sources or storm drains. Use pesticides only when they are needed.

## 6. Read And Follow the Label

Manufacturers have formulated their products to work best when used according to the directions. Before using fertilizers or pesticides, read the label. Keep pesticides away from children and pets by storing and disposing pesticides safely.

## 7. Go Natural

Create wildlife habitats at home with bird-friendly and pollinator-attracting plants. Choose native plants instead of invasive or