Creating Healthy Tennessee Yards and Neighborhoods

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What makes healthy yards and neighborhoods

• Recognition that the yard or neighborhood is an ecosystem and must be treated as a single management unit
• Considers all of the tools in the toolbox and uses the right tool in the right place
• The TYN nine principles offer a full toolbox
The TYN Nine Principles

- Right Plant - Right Place
- Manage Soils & Mulches
- Appropriate Turfgrass Management
- Water Efficiently
- Use Fertilizers Appropriately
- Manage Yard Pests
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff & it’s Pollutants
- Provide for Wildlife
- Protect Water’s Edge
Step 1

Right Plant – Right Place
Wrong Plant Wrong Place
Improper Planting
Plant Correctly

Tight roots will not grow out properly.

Loosen roots before planting
Shallow is Better Than Deep

**Width:** As wide as possible

**Depth:** Less than the height of the root ball
The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map website includes an interactive-GIS map that allows the viewer to "click" down in scale to one-half mile. It also includes national, state and regional images in a variety of resolutions, and a ZIP code finder that provides the plant hardiness zone for all U.S. ZIP codes.
Step 2

Manage Soils and Mulches
Evaluate Soil

- Start with a laboratory soil analysis, soil boring, and perk test
- Allow enough time for adjustments to fully react
- Don’t try to take shortcuts in preparation
- Record sample number & description of the sampling area it represents
- Mail in Soil and Media Information Sheet with TYN Soil Voucher
This Way

Mulching

Not this!
Step 3

Appropriate Turfgrass Management
Mega-lawn to No Lawn

What is your desire for your home?
Step 4

Water Efficiently
Irrigation Best Management Practices

• Select proper system to meet your irrigation needs and maintain it properly
• Group plants by water requirements
• Manage irrigation zones to meet plant requirements
• Calibrate your system and check regularly
• Install a rain shut-off on automatic systems
• Only water when needed
Step 5

Use Fertilizer Appropriately
You fertilize the lawn. Then it rains. The rain washes the fertilizer along the curb into the storm drain, and directly into our lakes, streams and bays. This causes algae to grow, which uses up oxygen that fish need to survive. So if you fertilize, please follow directions and use sparingly.
Appropriate Fertilizer Use

• Fertilize only as needed to maintain lawn and landscape plant health

• Use slow-release fertilizers (i.e. 30% or more nitrogen in slow-release forms)

• Use iron (ferrous sulfate or chelated iron) instead of nitrogen to keep summer lawns green
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FOR BETTER RESULTS.
NATURALLY.

NON-BURNING
NO NEED TO WATER IN
DEEP GREEN WITH 4% IRON

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1-0-1

Will not burn
No causa quemaduras

Turns yellow to green
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For a quick and long-lasting green
Para un verde rápido y duradero

For Lawns, Flowers, Shrubs, Vegetables and Trees
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For all soil types
Para todos los tipos de suelo

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Net Weight/Peso Neto 40 lb (18.1 kg)
Scotts Organic Choice Lawn Food
Builds a thick, green lawn...Guaranteed!
Safe to walk on lawn immediately after application
Apply anytime on any grass type

11-2-2
Composting

Compost + Smart Soil and Crop Management = Healthy Plants + Clean Water and Air
Reasons to compost

- Gives “oomph” to your soil – naturally
- Reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers
- Reduces greenhouse gases
- Conserves landfill space
- Helps the environment
Benefits of compost

• Enhances rainfall penetration while reducing runoff and erosion
• Reduces sediment, nutrient, and pesticide loses to water bodies by 75 - 95%
• Improves the soil and enhances beneficial microbes that helps reduce plant diseases and pests
Step 6

Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
Integrated pest management (IPM) is the selection, integration, and implementation of pest control based on predicted economic, ecological, and sociological consequences.

Bottrell, D. 1979
Principles for developing and IPM Program

• Must accept that pests will exist in the landscape
• The entire landscape is the management unit and should be viewed as an ecosystem
• The use of natural control agents are maximized
Principles continued

• Any management procedure may produce unexpected and undesired effects

• Management approach must be multidisciplinary
Integrated Pest Management

- Prevent
- Detect and identify plants, symptoms, pests, and natural enemies
- Make a decision: Is it time to act?
- If yes, intervene!
Biological or Natural Controls
Step 7

Reduce Stormwater Runoff and it’s Pollutants
Reduce Stormwater Runoff

• Direct downspouts and gutters to drain onto lawns, plant beds or other pervious surfaces

• Use mulch, bricks, gravel or other porous surfaces for walkways, patios and driveways

• Install rain gardens
Reduce Stormwater Pollutants

• Create swales or terracing to catch, hold and filter stormwater

• Sweep grass clippings, fertilizer and soil from driveways and back onto the lawn
Step 8

Provide for Wildlife
Four Basic Elements

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Place to raise young
• Identify wildlife critters that live in your yard

• Provide a water source

• Plant vines, shrubs and trees that provide cover, nesting areas, and/or food

• Provide wildlife shelters (i.e. bat house, brush pile, dead tree)
Principle # 9

Protect Water’s Edge
Protecting the Water’s Edge

- Establish a 25-50 foot “no fertilizer, no pesticide” zone along waterfront
- Plant a mix of trees, shrubs and grasses between your lawn and the water’s edge
- Focus on planting natives and selectively removing exotic plants (take care not to remove plant root systems that could destabilize banks)
Plant roots help to reduce erosion and runoff into waterbodies.

25-50 foot “no fertilizer-no pesticide” zone