

# GET READY FOR *new* PESTICIDE *rules*

**Beginning April 1, 2011, only certain pesticides may be used on LAWNS.**

These rules are contained in two documents:

- **Non-essential Pesticides Control Act**
- **Exceptions to Prohibitions on Non-essential Pesticides Regulations**

The new rules are important to reduce risks to our families and to protect our environment.



**These new rules apply to everyone:**

- **residential** – homes, apartments, and condos
- **commercial** – businesses and cemeteries
- **government** – parks and office buildings
- **institutional** – schools, hospitals, long-term care homes, and recreation centres

Many lower-risk pesticides will still be allowed and available on store shelves. For the list of allowable pesticides, go to

**[gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/Allowed.List.Registered.Examples.pdf](http://gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/Allowed.List.Registered.Examples.pdf)**

**Beginning April 1, 2012 the new rules will apply to ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS, FLOWERS, AND TREES.**

## EXCEPTIONS

**You will still be allowed to use pesticides that are NOT on the allowable list to get rid of pests or plants that can harm people or animals, such as: European fire ants, wasps, poison ivy, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed.**

These pesticides are sold by retailers certified by Nova Scotia Environment and must be kept behind the counter. Remember, there may be allowable pesticides or non-chemical means that will take care of the pest problems.

Certified retailers will tell you

- the best way to control pests and weeds on your property
- the right way to use a pesticide so that it does the job
- the legal uses of the pesticide
- the importance of reading and following the directions on the label

**The new rules do NOT apply to**

- food grown on farms
- insects in your home and at home
- mice, rats, or other rodents
- forests
- fleas on pets
- golf courses
- indoor plants

## CONTACT US

For more information on pesticide use in Nova Scotia, go to **[gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/non-essential.pesticides.asp](http://gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/non-essential.pesticides.asp)**  
e-mail **[non-essential-pesticides@gov.ns.ca](mailto:non-essential-pesticides@gov.ns.ca)**,  
or call **1-855-455-4034**

**NEW PESTICIDE RULES ON BACK**

## YOUR GUIDE TO *healthy lawns* WITHOUT PESTICIDES



**IT'S *only* A DANDELION**



# YOU *can* KEEP YOUR LAWN HEALTHY *without* PESTICIDES

Want a low maintenance front and back yard? Try what some Nova Scotians are already doing:

- make your lawn smaller
- replace your lawn with a garden of flowers, shrubs, and trees
- grow a vegetable garden and fruit trees
- enjoy all the wildflowers in your lawn



## SPRING

- **Aerate the lawn.** Punch holes throughout the lawn to let air, water, fertilizer, and lime get to the roots and the soil.
- **Add lime.** This reduces the amount of acid in the soil. Test the pH level of your soil. If it is acidic, like most soil in Nova Scotia, add garden lime. This will make your grass grow strong and cut down on weeds.
- **Rake or de-thatch.** Thatch is dead grass and other plants that build up on the surface of the soil. When thatch is more than 1cm (½ inch) thick it becomes a home for insects and prevents water from getting to the roots.
- **Fertilize.** You can go about this in one of two ways:
  - Fertilize three times a year, in May, early July, and September. Use a light application rate with a top-quality fertilizer.
  - or
  - Fertilize once a year in early September with a top-quality fertilizer.
- **Overseed.** Add grass seed any time you see bare or thinning spots. The staff at your local garden centre can help you choose the right seed for our climate.

## SUMMER

- **Longer grass is healthy grass.** Keep grass 6–8 cm long (2 ½ –3 inches). Cut only a third of the grass height each time you mow. Keep your mower blade sharp. This will protect the grass from tearing and allow it to grow better.
- **Water less often.** You only need to water your lawn after a dry spell. Your lawn needs water if it is turning yellow and sounds crunchy when you walk on it. When this happens, give your lawn a deep soak. This will take an hour to an hour and a half. Only do this once a week (morning or evening).
- **Overseed.** Add grass seed any time you see bare or thinning spots.

## FALL

- **Fertilize.** September is a good time to do this.
- **Add lime and compost.** October or November are ideal months for this. Compost acts as a natural fertilizer and keeps your soil healthy.
- **Overseed.** Add grass seed any time you see bare or thinning spots. You can do this any time in the fall.

### Quick Tips!

- When shopping for fertilizer look for these words: **slow release** and **nitrogen**.  
Fertilizers often have a series of three numbers printed on the front of the bag, for example 10-3-3. Look for fertilizers that are high in the first number or those that only contain nitrogen. Your lawn rarely needs added phosphorus or potassium, the chemicals represented by the other two numbers.
- If this seems like too much work, think about hiring a professional lawn care company. To find one, go to [landscapenovascotia.ca/search.php](http://landscapenovascotia.ca/search.php)
- If you do need to use pesticides for stubborn problems, choose something from the allowable list and remember to read and follow the directions on the label.