

Use natural lawn care products

Toxins in conventional lawn fertilizers have been found to potentially contaminate our water supply as well as cause a range of health problems, especially in children. Organic fertilizers help protect grass during droughts, staying in the soil to provide plants and grasses needed nutrients.

Use a push mower

A gas powered mower emits as much pollution as driving your car 100 miles. Hand powered mowers are best for grass shorter than three inches and lawns smaller than 1000 square feet.



Our groundwater

While Madison's drinking water meets or surpasses state and federal water standards, **the presence of nitrate in our groundwater should give us all pause before using quick-release fertilizers.** According to the Madison Water Utility's annual water quality report, runoff from fertilizer use is one of the likely sources of these nitrates.

Lake weeds

Madison residents have a close-up view of the harmful effects of lawn chemicals: lake weeds choke our beaches, fluster boaters and create an eyesore. Fertilizer runoff is partly to blame for the proliferation of lake weeds and algae.

Homeowners use three to six times more chemicals, per acre, than corn and soybean farmers. One pound of phosphorus in a lake can result in 300-500 pounds of algae.

Natural pest control

| Pest | Plant Repellent |
|------------------|--|
| Ant | mint, tansy, pennyroyal |
| Aphids | mint, garlic, chives, coriander, anise |
| Bean Leaf Beetle | potato, onion, turnip |
| Cucumber Beetle | radish, tansy |
| Flea Beetle | garlic, onion, mint |
| Japanese Beetle | garlic, larkspur, tansy, rue, geranium |
| Mice | onion |
| Slugs | prostrate rosemary, wormwood |
| Spider Mites | onion, garlic, cloves, chives |
| Stink Bug | radish |
| Tomato Hornworm | marigolds, sage, borage |