Managing our yards with non-toxic methods (instead of synthetic fertilizers and weed-and-feed products) is essential to protecting your family and Colorado’s biodiversity.

Pesticides used to manage school grounds, parks, and yards can be linked to cancer, endocrine/immune disruption, reproductive effects, neurotoxicity, kidney/liver disease, respiratory illness, and congenital disorders.

Pets, too, are vulnerable. Lawn chemicals are linked to two types of canine cancers and can contribute to seizures, rashes, skin allergies, and in some cases, death.

Children are particularly sensitive to pesticide exposure due to their smaller and developing bodies. Other vulnerable populations like the elderly, low-income and historically marginalized communities also face increased risk.

Pesticide-treated flowers can harm pollinators years after application, have been linked to massive bee losses, and kill beneficial insects like ladybugs.

Pesticide use impacts birds too! A single pesticide-coated seed can kill a songbird if ingested. Insects including caterpillars are baby bird food – please don’t poison them.

CREATE VIBRANT AND BENEFICIAL GREEN SPACES WHILE PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH!

LEARN MORE AND TAKE ACTION AT PEOPLEANDPOLLINATORS.ORG/MOREPLAY

Be an activist! Spread the word – keep this door hanger alive and share it with a neighbor or friend.
SWITCHING TO ORGANIC IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK! SIMPLY:

1) **Avoid pesticides** (including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) and seek out non-chemical alternatives.

2) **Convert part or all of your lawn to a pollinator-friendly pocket prairie** of local grasses and wildflowers.

3) **Incorporate native wildflowers** that bloom throughout the growing season and support the widest array of native pollinators.

**OVERALL BENEFITS OF GOING ORGANIC**

Going organic will cost less in the long term, allow beneficial insects to thrive, and will help with pest control. Your yard will become a beautiful and diverse ecosystem for people, pets, birds and pollinators!

**STEPS TO CREATING A HEALTHY LAWN**

Rather than using weed & feed products, do this instead:

**Test the soil**

Soil health is essential to creating a healthy lawn or garden. Understanding nutrient and pH levels can guide management decisions. Contact your state extension center to test your soil!

**Aerate**

Compacted soil is ripe for weed growth. Aerate your lawn to allow air, water, and nutrients to penetrate more deeply into the root zone.

**Apply Compost**

Once you’ve determined soil needs, add the appropriate nutrients to encourage growth and root development. Do this by leaving grass clippings on your lawn, adding organic compost and applying slow-release organic fertilizers.

**Over-seed**

Over-seeding your lawn with regionally appropriate high-quality seed promotes a dense turf that can out-compete weeds.

**Mow High & Mow Less Often**

Proper watering and mowing high encourages deep, drought-resistant root systems. If you can tolerate beneficial weeds like clover and dandelions, mow every other week rather than weekly to provide early season food sources for pollinators.

**Water Wisely**

Generally, lawns should be kept at 3-3 ½ inches, while watering deeply once a week should be sufficient.

**Use a Lawn Service?**

Ask them to use these methods and avoid toxic weed and feed products.

**WANT TO DO MORE? VISIT:**

PEOPLEANDPOLLINATORS.ORG/MOREPLAY

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