



PEOPLE  POLLINATORS
ACTION NETWORK

MORE PLAY LESS SPRAY

CREATE VIBRANT AND BENEFICIAL GREEN SPACES WHILE PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH!

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 are often linked to **weakened immune systems, asthma, congenital & learning disabilities, reproductive dysfunction, diabetes, Parkinson's, cancer and more.**



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.



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.



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.



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Be an activist! Spread the word – keep this door hanger alive and share it with a neighbor or friend.



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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.

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 deeper, drought-resistant root systems. If you can tolerate beneficial weeds like clover and dandelions, mow every other week rather than weekly to provide an early season food source for pollinators.

Water Wisely

Generally, lawns should be kept at 3-3 1/2 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.

OVERALL BENEFITS OF GOING ORGANIC

Going organic will cost less in the long term and allow beneficial insects to thrive and help with pest control.

Your yard will become a beautiful and thriving ecosystem for people, pets, and pollinators!



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