

Does Your Yard Measure Up?

# Creating Healthy Tennessee Yards and Neighborhoods

Measure Up?

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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 Yard Pests



Manage Soils & Mulches



**Reduce Stormwater Runoff & it's Pollutants** 



**Appropriate Turfgrass** Management



Water Efficiently





**Provide for Wildlife** 



Protect Water's Edge

### Step 1

Yard Measure Up?

### **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**



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#### **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





#### Mulching



## Step 3

#### Appropriate Turfgrass Management

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#### **Mega-lawn to No Lawn**

What is your desire for your home?





Step 4

### Water Efficiently



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#### 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**



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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









#### 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





#### IPM

- 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!

#### **Insect Dus** Diatomaceous Earth

12.99

St. Gabriel ORGANICS

For use in organ production

DEHYDRATES INSECTS DEAD!

eetles, Earwigs, Silverfish and



FOR USE INDOORS & OUTDOORS NET WEIGHT 4.4 LBS + TREATS 1.800 SQUARE FEEL

Killing So:

Safer



Por Planeters, Prailie and Wegerlanders

ts: Bacillus thuringiensis Berline powder fermentation product, tional Units per milligram of pr billion International Units per p ble Insect Attack Dust)<sup>M</sup>





#### 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**



A Measure Up?

#### **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



