



Watershed Division




Hazardous Waste Program



Funded by DEQ HHW Grant

Healthy Lawns Project



Why Healthy Lawns?

1. Based upon pre-existing programs implemented in Waterloo CANADA and Tigard, OR (DEQ/Metro)
2. Gresham tested an outfall draining only one neighborhood for the presence of 2,4-D

Messages

- Simple Steps to a Healthy Lawn
- Reduce or Eliminate Weed and Feed
- Water Appropriately




Simple Steps to a Healthy Lawn

2. Top dress with ¼ in. of compost (fall & spring)




Simple Steps to a Healthy Lawn

3. Overseed bare spots in fall & use a slow-release fertilizer




Simple Steps to a Healthy Lawn

4. Water deeply and infrequently (1 inch/week all at once) to encourage deep roots




Simple Steps to a Healthy Lawn

5. Nix the Weed and Feed—use only spot control for weeds, if you really need chemical weed control



Almost 100% of our major water bodies test positive for at least one pesticide.

Reach and Budget

- Reached 1600 residents
- 1200 staff hours over 2 yrs \$48K (sunk cost Gresham and Metro)
- \$33K on Temps (2100 hours plus mileage)
- \$22K Pre/Post Telephone Survey
- \$11K Edu/Outreach Materials
- Total project cost: \$66K (\$22K funded from DEQ grant)
- \$41 per person (excluding eval/sunk cost)

Results

- People who highly value having a green and weed free lawn are more likely to use weed and feed.
- People who use weed and feed do not water more than people who do not.
- People who use weed and feed are more likely to NEVER grasscycle. In turn, 50% of grasscyclers also use weed and feed.
- No correlation between grasscycling and using organic fertilizer, aerating or reseeding.

- *The majority of people who use organic fertilizer may also still use weed and feed (almost 75%).*
- *HLP participants were more likely to reseed barespots and use compost than non-participants, but overall this practice is being implemented by slightly less than 50%.*
- *The majority (94%) of people understand when to water (AM or PM), but do not yet understand how much to water (67%) and are not using methods to determine water depth (82%).*

- *HLP participants are more likely to water correctly (1 inch per week) (51% v. 33%) than non-participants.*
- *HLP participants were more likely to let their lawn go brown in the summer.*
- *Weed and feed use is still the predominant norm (73% pre-HLP and 71% post-HLP). However, HLP participants are less likely to apply weed and feed more than once per year compared to non-participants. (41% v. 55%).*
- *The majority of weed and feed users understand that it may be harmful to children, pets and wildlife (78%), demonstrating that people still do not consider themselves as part of the problem.*