



MARBLEHEAD ORGANIC LAWN CARE

WHY?

Green, healthy lawns are possible without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides!

Chip Osborne, President of Osborne Organics, offers these tips for growing sustainable, natural turf without toxic chemicals that may harm children, pets and the environment.



SOIL HEALTH

Lush grass comes from healthy soil.

Test your soil's ph level by sending a sample to UMASS.*

The target ph level for grass is 6.5 to 7.

Marblehead soil tends to run acidic, add lime to neutralize acidity.

Rent an aerating machine if soil is compacted.

Use nutrient rich compost to feed microbes in soil.

* more information at ag.umass.edu



PLANTING SEED

Plant grass in early spring or fall. Buy high quality grass seed.

Kentucky bluegrass germinates in 3 wks and 4 more to establish.
Perennial ryegrass in 1 wk and 2 more to establish.

Cover the earth with high quality compost to prepare the soil (1/8 to 1/4" thick) then plant grass seed.

Spray with a nutrient filled "tea" using a 1 quart hose end sprayer: 2 t molasses, 3 oz each humic acid and kelp, and 6 oz fish or squid hydrolysate.



MAINTENANCE

Do not overwater. Grass needs 1" a week, ideally water twice a week between 5 and 9 a.m.

Keep mower blades sharp. Cut grass to 3". Leave grass clippings on lawn.

Organic fertilizers include compost, blood and feather meal, and grains like soy, corn and alfalfa. Fertilize in May, Aug. and Oct.

To treat crab grass, use a better quality grass seed to choke out crab grass.

De-thatch at Labor Day, then aerate and top dress with compost.

For more information:

{ sustainablemarblehead.org
osborneorganics.com

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