

NURTURE THE SOIL

1. Grasscycling

- A. Did you know that grass clippings have 4% nitrogen? By putting the clippings back into the lawn you are using less fertilizer.



2. Mulch Regularly

- A. Mulch is any material spread over the soil. It can be leaf litter, bark or rocks
- B. You need 2-4 inches at all times to suppress weeds
- C. Mulch protects the soil from compaction.

3. Feed Soils Naturally

- A. Add a thin layer of compost to your soil
- B. Compost adds nutrients and microbes to the soil.
- C. Feed turf by topdressing with compost instead of commercial fertilizer
- D. Apply compost 2-4 times a year to your plants instead of commercial fertilizer.
“Space the Base”
- E. If you use chemical fertilizer please read the label.

4. Minimize the use of Chemical Pesticides



- A. Many pesticides are toxic to microbes and other soil dwelling creatures, worms are great workers and we need to keep them alive
- B. If pesticides are needed chose the least toxic first. Always read the label

C. Learn IPM www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

Benefit:

- Conserve water
- Enhance plant growth
- Suppress weeds
- Improve the appearance of your garden

