THE DANGERS OF YOUR LAWN AND HOW WE ARE WASTING OUR MONEY

Introduction

Thank you for downloading your Free Report on "The Dangers of your Lawn and How we are Wasting our Money." Everything in this Free Report is a compilation of many websites condensed into one. The content is not of our own words. We couldn't put everything in here, so we selected the most important part of each site. If you choose to read each article in its entirety, we have all the website links at the end of the Report in the Reference section. In this Report we wanted to inform you of how all the Hazards and Dangers your lawn in harming you, your children, your pets and environment.

You will be shocked at how you are wasting your hard earned money on water, gas, and pesticides on you lawn. Just water alone, is a precious resource that we waste, whether its public water, from cisterns, or from a well. As the Drought gets worse every year, we should start conserving, and not pollute our water now. Many of our rivers in this country are slowly drying up.

So by the end of reading this report, if you want to protect your children, pets, and environment give JW Synthetic Grass a call for a Free Estimate at 406-696-5598. Once you read this report and decide to have us install Synthetic Grass, we will give you a discount of $.50 sqft off when you mention this report. I want you to think about these three questions as you read this report.

1. Is this information important enough for me and my family (including my pets)?

2. Is the water quality and water conservation a concern?

3. Do we need to be concerned about Global Warming?

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Gas Usage for Lawn Mowing

With the price of gasoline and natural gas on the rise, most are looking for ways to cut their costs and save energy. If you have a lawn or garden, you may not realize just how much fossil fuels you are using. Poorly maintained equipment and a high-maintenance lawn consume increasingly more gas, doing significant damage to your gas budget. Discover just how much gas Americans use to care for their lawn each year and learn what you can do to improve your gas consumption, and help save the environment.

According to a California study, in many areas — especially in the West, where water must be moved great distances from reservoir (such as cisterns) — the amount of fuel needed to pump the water is at least equal to the fuel used in mowing.

American Totals

In a recent PPPro online newsletter Paul Tukey, editor of People, Places and Plants magazine, provides some sobering facts and helpful suggestions. Each year, a family with a one-third acre lawn will on average:

* consume five gallons of gas for mowing and trimming;
* apply the equivalent of seven gallons for fertilizing;
* burn up to five gallons for watering; and * consume an additional gallon for cleanup.

The amount of water lawns consume is also exorbitant. A recent NASA study found that lawns, including golf courses, cover almost fifty thousand square miles of the U.S.—about the size of the state of New York. More than a third of all urban fresh water goes toward watering lawns.

That’s 18 gallons of fuel per household. With 120 million U.S. households, that’s the equivalent of almost 2.2 billion gallons of fuel used just for lawn care each year. This does not count other landscaping activities. So just how do we use so much?

Yale University has estimated that the United States uses more than 600 million gallons of gas to mow and trim lawns each year — about two gallons of gas for every man, woman and child, or five gallons per household. Mowers also consume engine oil in their crankcases, and two-stroke mowers consume oil in their fuel.

According to a research project sponsored by NASA, America is blanketed by about 128,000 square kilometers or almost 32 million acres of lawn grass that needs regular cutting and maintenance. That regular lawn maintenance consumes about 800 million gallons of gas each year, averaging out to about 5 gallons of gas per household. Although that number is small compared to the 142 billion gallons of gas consumed in the United States annually, gas-powered lawn equipment is a big contributor to the nation's pollution problem.
Pollution

In addition to fuel consumption, mowers and outdoor power equipment contribute heavily to air pollution. Operating a typical (4 HP) gasoline-powered lawn mower for one hour produces as much smog-forming hydrocarbons as driving an average car between 100 and 200 miles under average conditions. Gasoline-powered string trimmers are actually more polluting than many lawn mowers. One estimate (mindfully.org) states that “the 20,000,000 small engines sold in the U.S. each year contribute about one tenth of the total U.S. mobile source hydrocarbon emissions, and are the largest single contributor to these non-road emissions. These include power blowers, rakes, and brooms. In addition to their gas consumption, lawn mowers and other gas-powered lawn equipment emit a considerable amount of pollution. According to the EPA, "Operating a typical gasoline-powered lawn mower for one hour produces the same amount of smog-forming hydrocarbons as driving an average car almost 200 miles under typical driving conditions." A gas mower running for about 45 minutes uses about 50,000 BTUs of energy in the form of gasoline.

Gas-powered lawn mowers and blowers also contribute to air and noise pollution. The EPA estimates that 580,000,000 gallons of gasoline are used for lawnmowers every year and emissions from these machines contribute to smog.

Drought Resistant

Synthetic grass is more popular than ever as landscapers turn to artificial means to keep their lawns green during the drought.

When you look at your backyard do you see a lush lawn --the kind that's freshly mowed, perfectly green and never spotty? Perhaps it's the kind of lawn that you can only see when you look over the fence into your neighbor's yard? Of course the grass is always greener but in this case it might indeed be true.

Karmie, owner of a landscaping company, says drought conditions and water restrictions have made homeowners turn to synthetic grass as a way to stay green all year long. He says that while people may first put in the synthetic grass because of water conditions, he claims that after it's installed, "People realize that it does look good and it is functional and it is nice and it doesn't look like the old cheesy astroturf. It's gained acceptance," says Karmie.

As for initial cost, "I would say the [synthetic] grass will run four to five times the cost of putting in sod initially for irrigation system and grass, but when you start looking at the ongoing cost of maintenance, watering, fertilizing and doing the things you have to do to keep a nice lawn…. We'll see a pay back rate typically in about five to six years," says Karmie. Water companies in the south and east have imposed water pipe bans with gardeners facing a large fine for watering the lawn.

Tony Smith, a landscaper, pointed out that most lawns are a ‘monoculture’ that do not provide much for wildlife anyway and can be costly for the environment because of the use of weed-killer, fertilizer, fuel for mowing and most of all water.

“In the last year, with the drought, people have been looking for something that doesn’t need the water input. Watering the lawn, feeding it, weed-killing it and mowing it is pretty close to offsetting the impact of making synthetic grass - and as water becomes more and more scarce it could be seen as environmentally friendly.”
Already academics have warned that in the future lawns will become a sign of ‘moral decadence’ as frequent droughts in the South West will make it unacceptable to use a huge amount of water for upkeep.

Then there’s water. With recent droughts and increasing costs for water, planting or maintaining a thirsty patch of green is likely to become more expensive. Places that now experience drought aren’t likely to see increases in rainfall in the near future, so water rates are also likely to rise.

An American family of four can use 400 gallons of water per day, and about 30 percent of that is devoted to outdoor uses. More than half of that outdoor water is used for watering lawns and gardens. Nationwide, landscape irrigation is estimated to account for almost one-third of all residential water use, totaling more than 7 billion gallons per day. Other residential outdoor uses include washing automobiles, maintaining swimming pools, and cleaning sidewalks and driveways.

Water use varies greatly depending on geographic location and season, largely as a result of differences in climate. Water withdrawals for irrigation and landscaping are highest in the drier regions of the West and Southwest, where population growth is often greatest.

Some experts estimate that up to 50 percent of commercial and residential irrigation water use goes to waste due to evaporation, wind, improper system design, or overwatering.

Many people water their lawns too often and for too long, oversaturating plants. It’s usually not necessary to water grass every day.

Converting to a water-efficient landscape through proper choice of plants, synthetic grass, and careful design can reduce outdoor water use by 20 to 50 percent.

**Disadvantages of Growing Grass**

Having a nice lawn surrounding your house not only improves the quality of your life, but also improves the value of your home and helps ecologically by filtering the air and water that passes through it. But these benefits do have a cost associated with them.

Lawns sometimes do serve a purpose—in a baseball field or at a park—but they also represent our national conspicuous wastefulness. Americans spend forty billion dollars on lawn upkeep each year and dump gallons of water, petroleum-based fertilizer, and chemicals on them just to keep them looking pretty. The benefits of a lawn free life are rapidly becoming clear—and possibly coming to a neighborhood near you.

Part of the allure of the lawn is that it’s easy to maintain—just mow it, right? However, lawns need constant care if you want them to look good and this means spending money. While mowing your own lawn used to be the only way to go, most people now use hired help to mow, blow, and edge their green. That means monthly expenditures that usually get more expensive over time, as gardeners raise rates and pesticides and herbicides increase in cost.
It needs to be cut on a regular basis. A healthy lawn is one with a good root system which is further developed through regular mowing’s at the proper height and frequency. Un-mown grass is also an invitation for ticks which can transmit serious diseases. If you do-it-yourself, then mowing involves time and physical exertion, not to mention the cost and maintenance of a lawn mower. Although lawn mowers have improved greatly over the last few decades in terms of safety, they still pose certain dangers if not handled properly. Lawn mowers are typically dirty and noisy, although there are some new battery-powered models that are whisper quiet and don’t pollute on the neighborhood level.

To look good, a lawn needs a good balance of chemicals to survive. Grass plants have a large demand for certain chemicals such as nitrogen, to stay in top shape. Without regular and timely applications of properly balanced fertilizers that include special micro-nutrients, a lawn will lose it’s vitality and decrease it’s ability to withstand diseases and insect damage.

The pesticides don’t just stay within the yard, either. Rainwater and irrigation bring the chemicals to drains, streams, and other natural bodies of water, killing wildlife and leaching back into drinking water supplies. Lawns also thrive on fossil fuel-based fertilizers, which can run off into the waterways and cause algal blooms.

Lawns have a bad reputation as being polluters of our streams and rivers. While excess nitrogen and phosphorus does cause water problems, the culprit is more likely to be from farming areas where large amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus are applied in early spring when there is more likely to be heavy rains. The farm fields have nothing holding back the run-off and the applied nitrogen then works its way into our waterways.

Professionally applied fertilizers are typically applied at the correct rate with little or no excess run-off. Do-it-yourself homeowners are more likely to apply too much product that might result in excess run-off under the right conditions.

But still, there is a stigma that has been attached to homeowner's with nice looking lawns. They might be seen as people that don't care about the environment, when in truth, the exact opposite is true.

Nearly eighty million pounds of pesticides are used on U.S. lawns every year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Many of these are neurotoxins and carcinogens that pose threats to children and animals. Many are also toxic to beneficial insects like honeybees, ladybugs, and butterflies.

Pesticides are probably the biggest disadvantage to owning a premium lawn. Pesticides can be harmful to all concerned and extreme care must be taken in it's use. Pesticides are best used in small doses and only as needed. Putting down weed-killer across the entire lawn when only a few weeds live out back isn't good. Spot treatment of weeds is preferred and if you don't mind an occasional dandelion, forget weed controls altogether. Crabgrass and other invasive weeds need to be controlled annually before they become a major problem that is expensive and time consuming to correct.

Pesticides can be harmful and shouldn't be taken lightly by homeowners just because they can buy the stuff at the local hardware store. Most insects are beneficial to our ecosystem and pose no threat to our lawns, yet many homeowners will kill-off everything in sight or out of sight, just to get rid of the bugs. If not used and stored properly, pesticides can harm you, your children and your pets (even fatally).
The Hazards and Consequences of Lawn Pesticides

As the use of lawn chemicals and pesticides has grown, questions have arisen regarding safety hazards and environmental consequences. This report gives factual findings to help answer many of these concerns. Some of them may seem shocking, since the chemical pesticide industry has made every effort to keep this information from the public. Everything that follows in this report is documented and supported by the U.S. Federal Government, private agencies, and other experts.

Contrary to what lawn "care" companies would like people to believe, herbicides (weed killers) and other pesticides are not "magic bullets". They are broad spectrum biocides, and by their very nature can harm organisms other than targeted species. This includes homeowners and their families, neighbors, pets, and all other forms of life. The pesticide industry downplays this by claiming their chemicals are heavily diluted, but doesn't mention the toxins are still extremely dangerous in small amounts. They also are unwilling to mention all of what is in their mixtures. Many components are classified as "inert", which allows them to be kept hidden from the public and not listed on product labels. These are more than just fillers or solvents. "Inert" does not mean "inactive" - some, such as benzene and xylene, are more toxic than listed chemicals.

Listed chemicals can be just as dangerous. They include components of war-time defoliants like Agent Orange, nerve-gas type insecticides, and artificial hormones. Some the Federal Government has even prohibited from use on it's own property. Many pesticides are not safe when dry. Water evaporates, but most pesticides remain and continue to release often odorless and invisible toxic vapors. In areas where lawn spraying is common, they accumulate in a toxic smog throughout the entire season. Some pesticides remain active for years after application. DDT is still showing up in higher rates in women's breast milk than the government permits in cow's milk. Fat soluble pesticides accumulate over time in our bodies, then are released at potentially toxic levels when illness or stress results in our fat reserves being metabolised. A large portion of a woman's lifetime exposure to such pesticides is released in the breast milk for her firstborn child.

It is a violation of U.S. Federal law to claim pesticides are "safe when used as directed" since nothing can assure safety. Some pesticides labeled "bio-degradable" degrade into compounds more dangerous than the original. Examples include Mancozeb, which degrades into a substance that is an EPA-classified probable carcinogen. The pesticide industry also implies that "organic" means safe and natural, knowing that the term legally may be applied to any compound containing carbon and hydrogen. ChemLawn and other lawn "care" companies and manufacturers have often been sued for fictitious claims.

Many applicators are just as conniving and deceitful, using statements like "absolutely cannot harm children or pets" and "perfectly safe for the environment" to mislead the public. The New York State Attorney General’s Office sued Dow Elanco chemical company when they claimed that Dursban shows "no evidence of significant risk to the environment" when right on the label is stated "this pesticide is toxic to birds and extremely toxic to fish and aquatic organisms". A few years later on May 2, 1995, the EPA fined Dow Elanco for "failing to report to the Agency information on adverse health effects (to humans) over the past decade involving a number of pesticides, including chlorpyrifos (brand name Dursban)". Most of the information came from personal injury claims against Dow Elanco which the company had hidden from the EPA. Now it is even being found that chlorpyrifos causes multiple sclerosis.

Pesticides, lawnmower fumes and common lawn care practices actually create a net destruction of oxygen.

The United States General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, has also tried to alert the public to lawn chemical dangers. GAO's undercover team noted many fictitious
claims by many in the lawn "care" industry. Many included illegal claims of product safety. Others were just deceiving, such as the ChemLawn claim that a child would have to ingest ten cups of treated grass clippings to equal the toxicity of one baby aspirin. In fact, the real danger is not that people will be grazing the lawn but that most poisonings come from inhaling pesticide residues or absorbing them through the skin.

Most do-it-yourselfers are just as ignorant when it comes to proper protection and safety precautions. Studies show, most don’t even look at the warnings on their toxins. They don’t wear gloves, goggles, or protective clothing to decrease exposure. Worse, many don’t keep people off the contaminated area after chemicals are applied. Homeowners commonly use up to ten times as much pesticides per acre as farmers. A Virginia Tech study for the state legislature found that most homeowners have no idea how much nitrogen they use when fertilizing and that they apply chemicals in ways that damage water supplies.

Pesticides drift and settle during application. In the Antarctic ice pack alone there are 2.4 million pounds of DDT and its metabolites from years past. Pesticides engulf the home and are easily tracked inside, readily inhaled and absorbed through the skin. They do harm by attacking the central nervous system and other essential organs.

**Symptoms of pesticide poisoning are often deceptively simple, commonly mis-diagnosed as flu or allergies. They include, but are not limited to:**

- headaches
- fever
- seizures
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- burning skin
- coughing
- tissue swelling
- numbness and tingling in limbs
- anxiety
- sleep disorders
- fatigue
- irregular heartbeat
- spontaneous bleeding
- nausea
- breathing difficulties
- eye pains
- cramps
- sore nose, tongue or throat
- rashes
- muscle pain
- blurred vision
- incontinence
- irritability
- hyperactivity
- dizziness
- high blood pressure
- temporary paralysis

**Long-term consequences include:**

- lowered fertility
- neurological damage
- stroke
- menstrual problems
- suicidal depression
- death
- birth defects
- heart trouble
- immune system disorders
- memory loss
- cancer

The National Academy of Sciences reports that at least one out of seven people are significantly harmed by pesticide exposure each year. Increasingly, reports from many people around the country are "beginning to link feeling terrible with the fact the neighbors had the lawn sprayed the day before", notes Catherine Karr, a toxicologist for the National Coalition Against The Misuse Of Pesticides. Unfortunately, except for industrial accidents, tests for pesticide
poisoning are rarely performed, partially because they are expensive. Doctors also attribute them to stress, allergies, influenza, or an overactive imagination.

Many Americans are developing Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), a bizarre and extremely disabling condition. In 1979, the Surgeon General issued a report stating "There is virtually no major chronic disease to which environmental factors do not contribute, directly or indirectly." Indeed, people today are exposed to synthetic chemicals at levels unmatched at any time throughout human history. Washington Post staff writer Michael Weiskopf noted in a February 10, 1990 article that "hypersensitivity to low levels of toxic chemicals (MCS) is a serious and growing medical problem, threatening to cause significant economic consequences by disabling large numbers of otherwise healthy people." MCS is a result of the destruction of the body's ability to tolerate and synthesize chemicals after exposure to toxic substances. Victims develop extreme reactions now not only to lawn pesticides but also hair sprays, perfumes, soaps, formaldehyde, and many other common household products. Many victims include former lawn pesticide applicators and users, their families, and children.

Is Chemical Pesticide Exposure a Problem for YOUR Children?

Studies link pesticide exposure to cancer, birth defects, stillbirth, infertility, and damage to the brain and nervous system (including Parkinson's disease).

Cancers seen in children include: brain cancer, leukemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and soft tissue sarcoma. The same cancers are found in adults, as well as multiple myeloma, cancer of the pancreas, breast, prostate, kidney/bladder, eye, and colon-rectal cancer.

Pesticides can aggravate asthma and allergies. If you're thinking that this may a problem for other parents but not for you, don't be so sure. In a study done in Arkansas, urine samples from a group of approximately 200 children contained pesticides in nearly all samples tested. In the Minnesota Children's Exposure Study, the US EPA found a major metabolite of chlorpyrifos, a commonly used insecticide, in 98% of the participating children's urine samples.

In 2004, Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA) presented an analysis of pesticide-related data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The results showed that many US residents carry toxic pesticides in their bodies at levels above the government's "acceptable" thresholds. Many of the pesticides found in the test subjects have been linked to serious short- and long-term health effects, including infertility, birth defects, and childhood and adult cancers.

The dangers of synthetic pesticide use have been known for decades. The National Coalition for Pesticide Free Lawns reports that of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 are linked with cancer or carcinogenicity, 13 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 26 with liver or kidney damage, 15 with neurotoxicity, and 11 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system. Pesticides have been recently linked to attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children.

It's well known that children are at greater risk of pesticide-related disease than adults. According to the EPA, "Children's internal organs are still developing and maturing and their enzymatic, metabolic, and immune systems may provide less natural protection than those of an adult. There are 'critical periods' in human development when exposure to a toxin can permanently alter the way an individual's biological system operates... Children's behaviors, such as playing on the floor or on the lawn where pesticides are commonly applied, or putting objects in their mouths, increase their chances of exposure to pesticides.
Pesticides typically contain 5% active ingredients. The other 95% "inert" ingredients can be just as dangerous as the active ingredients. Yet pesticide companies aren't required to list them on their labels. As reported by the environmental organization Beyond Pesticides, many of the commonly used inert ingredients, including ethylene chloride, a nerve poison, are even more dangerous than the active ingredients.

The irony here is that many fertilizers contain pesticides as well as herbicides in their formulas. Families using such fertilizers to green their lawns may not even have a problem with pests. But they're getting pesticides whether they need them or not; likewise for applications from commercial lawn spraying services.

What about Children and Pets?

Children are much more susceptible to health effects of pesticides than adults. At the same level of exposure they will absorb more pesticides, because they have more skin surface for their size, and take in more breaths per minute. Children’s ability to degrade pesticides in the liver and their immune system protections are not fully developed.

Your pets can be poisoned by lawn chemicals especially snail and other pest baits. Dogs are more likely to get a type of cancer called canine malignant lymphoma if their owners use lawn care chemicals.

Pesticides are manufactured for a wide variety of purposes, and they come with a wide variety of side effects on the endocrine, nervous, and immune systems of human beings. Adults are susceptible to these effects, but children are even more likely to suffer negative effects from pesticide exposure because of their lower body weight, their less developed immune and detoxification systems, and the fact that they're still growing. Children may be exposed to pesticides from residues in food, in their homes or yards, or in schools, parks, and playgrounds. Pesticides are even starting to turn up in our freshwater supplies.

In and around homes, children spend more time than adults on floors and lawns, where pesticide residues are often found in high concentrations. Pesticides also don't always stay where they are applied. The Non-Occupational Pesticide Exposure Study found that even in households identified as "low-use homes," the air contained up to 5 pesticides.

Pesticides are intentionally toxic substances. Some chemicals commonly used on lawns and gardens have been associated with birth defects, mutations, adverse reproductive effects, and cancer in laboratory animals.

Children, infants, and fetuses may be especially vulnerable to the health effects of pesticides before the age of 2.

Children may be more susceptible to loss of brain function if exposed to neurotoxins, and may be more susceptible to damage to their reproductive systems.

Lawn-care pesticides are not tested for their chronic health effects, unless they are also licensed for food uses. The third most heavily used herbicide in the U. S., MCPP, has not been fully tested for chronic health effects since it is not allowed for use on foods. MCPP is commonly found in weed and feed products.

EPA has tested only nine of 750 registered pesticides for their effects on the developing nervous system; six of the nine tested were more harmful to young animals than adults.

Pesticides are composed of active ingredients and inert ingredients. Some inert ingredients...
may be more toxic than active ingredients and can comprise 90 to 95 percent of the product. Some inert ingredients are suspected carcinogens, while others have been linked to central nervous system disorders, liver and kidney damage, birth defects, and some short-term health effects.

Increased odds of childhood leukemia, brain cancer and soft tissue sarcoma have been associated with children living in households where pesticides are used. Other childhood malignancies associated with pesticide exposures include neuroblastoma, Wilms’ tumor, Ewing’s sarcoma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and cancers of the brain, colorectum, and testes.

Nearly 100,000 accidental pesticide exposures are reported to poison control centers each year. Many of these exposures involve children, providing clear evidence that current efforts to protect children by manufacturers and others are inadequate.

By-products of the insecticide chlorpyrifos were found in 93 percent of urine samples taken from children ages three to 13. In a separate study, 99 percent of 110 Seattle area children ages two to five had detectable levels of organophosphate residues in their urine. The safety of lawn chemicals found in fertilizers and pesticides is a subject that inspires passionate debate among proponents of years, and have been blamed for everything from poisoned wells to sickness in children and even death. Many municipalities have banned pesticides and certain fertilizers in an effort to halt the dangers associated with their use and mis-use.

Chemical companies are required by law to list only their active ingredients and not inert ingredients. Some believe that these inert ingredients are just as harmful as the active ingredient and should be listed on the label.

If you feel reluctant or fearful of using lawn chemicals I suggest using organic products. It’s better to remove all doubt, than to forever question whether a lawn chemical may have been responsible for the sickness or death of a loved one.

If you are applying lawn chemicals READ THE LABEL. Follow the directions, be aware of the effects of exposure and do not over apply. More is not better. Lawn chemicals can begin to get dangerous with repeated exposure and improper handling so wear the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE). The label will also indicate when it is safe to re-enter an area after the product has been applied.

When it comes to relative safety, fertilizers are fairly safe, herbicides/pesticides can be dangerous, and insecticides are the most dangerous because they usually affect the central nervous system.

Does Neighbors’ Pesticide Use Affect My Family and Me?

Pesticide drift residues contaminate play equipment, sand boxes, home gardens, backyard pools and ponds, rivers, lakes, and streams. Pesticide drift from run-off, leaching and rain is a hazard to birds, bees, fish, and other wildlife, and to pets.

Pesticides used outdoors can get inside a home even if the windows are closed; and are, tracked in from contaminated soil. Pesticide residues, once inside the home, can remain for weeks, months or even years.

Pesticide drift poses health risks to neighbors and the community. Most at risk are children, pregnant women, asthmatics, people with allergies and chemical sensitivity, the elderly, and the ill.
Why Would Pesticides Be On the Market If They Were Not Safe?

Many people assume that the pesticides they buy, or those used by exterminators and lawn care companies are “safe”. They assume that the pesticides wouldn’t be on the market if they weren’t, and that the government is protecting them. Neither assumption is correct.

www.pesticides.org
www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/riskassess.htm

Weed Control

Herbicides are the single largest component of the fertilizer-pesticide-herbicide mix annually poured on our lawns. Like pesticides, over-exposure to herbicides can have deadly consequences. Studies have linked herbicide exposure to cancers of the colon, lung, nose, prostate, and ovary as well as to leukemia and multiple myeloma. Occupational exposure to herbicides of the sort suffered by agricultural workers and those who spray our yards has been shown to lead to an increased risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Not surprisingly, it's been found that pets can be at extreme risk from herbicides. A National Cancer Institute study found that dogs were two times more likely to develop lymphoma if their owners used a popular herbicide on their lawns four or more times a year. None of these risks, in light of effective alternatives, seems worth it to rid one’s yard of dandelions.

Pesticide Use

EPA permits over 200 different pesticides to be used for lawn care, and these are often mixed together and sold as chemical combinations.

Approximately 35 pesticides are used in over 90 percent of lawn treatment. Nearly 80 million pounds of pesticide active ingredients are used on U.S. lawns annually.

Lawns cover 30 million acres of the U.S. and the industry that has evolved to take care of lawns is now a multibillion-dollar business.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that “homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops.”4 Homeowners applying their own pesticides may be directly exposed to the chemicals through inhalation, dermal (skin) exposure, and/or ingestion.

Statistics on the amount of lawn-care chemicals used in Connecticut are not available. Environment & Human Health, Inc. found in an earlier study that among homeowners interviewed, 72 percent used pesticides on their lawns and/or trees.

Ecological Effects

Nearly 30 million acres of lawn are routinely treated with lawncare chemicals. Some of these treated lawns may be toxic to birds. Recent Canadian studies found that between three and 14 bird deaths may occur due to pesticides per acre of farmland. It only takes one granule of
diazinon to kill a bird. Recent testing of dead birds for the West Nile virus by the State of New York found that birds had commonly died from pesticide poisoning. Lawn-care pesticides were found to be among the most common causes of death among the birds tested.

The U.S. Geological Survey found that 96 percent of all fish analyzed in major rivers and streams contained residues of one or more pesticides at detectable levels.

Pesticides have been identified as a potential cause of amphibian declines and deformities and have been implicated as one of the reasons that wild and managed pollinators are disappearing at alarming rates.

**Pesticides in Water**

Most lawn-care chemicals have the potential to contaminate underlying groundwater. The top five selling lawn-care pesticides, 2,4-D, glyphosate, MCPP, dicamba, and diazinon, are all listed by the State of California as having the potential to contaminate groundwater based on their physical and chemical characteristics.

Studies of major rivers and streams have documented that 100 percent of all surface water samples contained one or more pesticides at detectable levels.

Homeowners may unknowingly contaminate their own well water by using pesticides on their lawns.

Pesticides—especially herbicides—have contaminated drinking water throughout the country. Removing pesticides from contaminated water supplies is difficult, expensive, and not always successful. A California study found that among 600 water suppliers that have detected pesticides in their water sources, only 40 use treatment facilities that effectively reduce concentrations of pesticides. Another expert estimated that it cost an average of $3,000 per well to rid it of pesticide contamination using filtration.

**Pesticide Packaging, Labeling and Sales**

The packaging of many lawn-care chemicals is porous, releasing vapors from the chemicals into nearby air. These vapors are easily detected by sense of smell, and often contaminate indoor air where sold.

The risks of long-term health effects, such as cancer and neurotoxicity, are not reported on product labels. Only summaries of acute toxicity are required on labels.

**Poison in our Grass**

Not only does the practice of using chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides destroy the life of the soil which is the necessary ingredient to healthy plants of any kind, but it is dangerous and deadly to our children, our pets, the song birds we try to attract to our yard with bird feeders, our groundwater, our neighbors and ourselves. And we spend a great deal of time and money in order to accomplish this.

The Environmental Protection Agency backs this up. They have banned the use of diazinon on golf courses and sod farms because of the huge number of birds being killed. They are phasing out the use of diazinon altogether because of the danger to humans and wildlife.

The petrochemical fertilizers we were now using on our lawns every spring and fall in order to achieve the "perfect lawn", killed all the micro-organisms and earthworms and other life forms that maintain the healthy soil needed to grow healthy plants. With only 3 nutrients being given back to the soil to feed the grass plants the soil became more and more deficient and compacted (no earthworms and other soil creatures to keep it loose and friable). This lead to weak grass plants that were now attacked by disease and insects and so more chemicals were dumped on our already stressed lawns to treat these problems. Thatch builds up where there are no micro-organisms and earthworms and so our lawns became more and more work to maintain - demanding an ever increasing amount of chemicals.
We are told by chemical companies that the chemicals used in lawn care products are harmless to anything but the "weeds" and insects "when used properly". But as scientific studies have been done on these chemicals, many have been found to be a serious hazard to human health. One by one they have been pulled off the market.

In the last five years it has come to our attention that chemicals are tested for their effects on adults - not on children. Children's smaller bodies and faster metabolisms react differently to chemicals than adult bodies. And so now the "approved" chemicals are being re-tested and many are being found to be harmful to our children.

According to a report by the National Academy of Sciences, residential lawns and gardens receive heavier doses of pesticides than most other land areas in the United States, as much as ten pounds per acre of lawn versus two pounds per acre of soybeans. A full 40 percent of pesticides used in the U.S. mimic hormones in our bodies, causing reproductive disorders and interfering with fetal development....consider diazinon, one of the most commonly used home and garden pesticides. One ounce of diazinon is enough to exceed government aquatic life guidelines for 94 million gallons of water. This residential chemical has also killed more birds in the last five years than any other pesticide. If only 1,000 of us stop using pesticides on our gardens and lawns, we'll protect the environment from 700 pounds of toxins each year.

Ten Reason to Stop Using Lawn Chemicals:

- Chemical pesticides and fertilizers contaminate surface and groundwater.
- Chemical pesticides threaten the health of children.
- Children are often the most exposed to pesticides due to their behavior (putting contaminated grass, soil and toys into mouth, breathing close to the ground).
- Chemical pesticides threaten the health of outdoor pets. Outdoor pets are highly exposed to lawn chemicals due to their behavior (licking contaminated paws and coat, breathing close to the ground, eating contaminated grass, soil and toys) and are highly vulnerable due to their small size.
- Chemical pesticides threaten the health of local wildlife. Turf-dwelling and feeding species such as the American Robin, Canada goose, American widgeon, European starling, common raccoon and eastern gray squirrel are highly exposed to lawn chemicals. Granular formulations diazinon and chlorpyrifos can severely impact birds that mistake the granules for seed or other food items. Diazinon, a common lawn insecticide, is associated with large bird kills and is banned for use on American sod farms and golf courses.
- Chemical pesticides and fertilizers reduce the activity of beneficial organisms. Healthy soil is alive with a variety of beneficial organisms that actually kill pest insects, decrease the spread of disease and help plants gather nutrients and water. For example, earthworms improve air and water circulation, decompose thatch, deposit nutrient-rich castings and help to neutralize soil (plants prefer this pH). Many of these beneficial organisms are highly exposed and highly sensitive to lawn chemicals. Pesticides and fertilizers reduce their activity levels, thereby reducing a lawn's natural ability to control pests and diseases, gather nutrients and water and maintain overall health.
- Chemical fertilizers are a waste of money.
- Chemical fertilizers usually contain three macro-nutrients: phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen. They lack other macro as well as micro-nutrients and include no organic matter or microbes. In contrast, finished compost from your backyard bin is an organic and natural soil amendment which provides a more complete package of nutrients, organic...
matter and microbes. Finished compost is a free resource that also constitutes sustainable waste management, extending the lifespan of local dumps and landfills.

- Chemical pesticides have the potential to cause damage throughout their lifecycles. All stages of a pesticide's lifecycle - production, transport, storage, use and disposal - have the potential to degrade environmental and human health. Explosions, spills and volatilization may occur in manufacturing plants, storage facilities and en route, exposing potentially huge numbers of non-target organisms to pesticides. Disposal is an expensive and controversial proposition as people campaign to keep stockpiles out of their communities.

- Chemicals actually degrade the over-all long-term health of your lawn and garden.
- Chemical lawn care is the wrong approach. By frequently applying pesticides to your lawn, you may create a chemical-dependent landscape. As pest species become resistant to the chemicals designed to kill them, more concentrated doses and frequent applications are required and a never-ending cycle of increasing pest resistance and pesticide use is established. When this happens, your lawn's health is spiraling downhill.

Lawn chemicals are unnecessary.
Historically, organic lawn care has been practiced for much longer than chemical lawn care and it can easily be implemented on any lawn. Safe and effective alternatives exist for most chemical pesticides and fertilizers. There is no need to expose our families, communities and local wildlife to chemicals that are known or potential hazards.

**Lawn Problems**

Every lawn and landscape has its share of problems. If you don’t see the problems, it’s because you’re not sure what to look for. With a little knowledge, a sense of timing and a few helpful hints, even beginners can achieve results that will have the neighbors seeking their advice.

Lawn problems fall into 3 major categories:

- **Soil Problems**
- **Insect Problems**
- **Diseases**

**Symptoms of problems**

Usually you’re aware something’s wrong when your lawn doesn’t look right. Either the grass is dead in spots, turned a different color, is wilted, or you see an increase in weeds. Most of these symptoms are the sign that your lawn isn't in the best of health.

Is there just one dead spot in the lawn, or are there many dead spots? Do the dead grass areas seem to be where your new puppy frequents? Are the spots just in the backyard, or are they in front and back equally? If dead spots are equally in both the front and back lawns, these are likely signs of insect damage. Do some excavating to see if you can find any grubs, mole crickets, or chinch bugs in the damaged lawn areas. As grubs begin to mature their appetite grows and they chew at the roots, so do sod webworms. If you find these insects, then treat for them accordingly at the appropriate time of year when treatments are more likely to be effective. In this instance,
when grub damage becomes apparent, it's already too late to treat for them. But it's not too late to prevent the same thing happening next year.

**Other poor lawn health symptoms**

If the lawn isn’t obviously dead brown, are there other visible changes: yellowing, orangish-red tinge, spots on the leaf blades? These are signs of a fungal infestation.

If weeds are taking over your lawn, this is a sign there's either a soil problem or a light problem. Weeds are opportunistic plants. They have to have the right conditions to take hold. That means they require access to light. If you have a healthy thick lawn, very little light reaches the soil. But, if your lawn has thinned out, more light reaches the soil and the weed seeds can then germinate and take hold. You need to examine why your lawn has thinned out. This could be because your lawn hasn't received enough nutrients to grow properly, your soil is compacted, thatch buildup has reduced your lawn's ability to extract nutrients from the soil, or there's too much shade /sunlight for the type of grass you're trying to grow.

Have nutrients been applied to the lawn on a regular basis? Is the soil compacted? Is there a too thick layer of thatch? Is the soil dried out from lack of water? These are all problems that can cause a lawn to thin out and provide an opening for weeds to grow. Often problems result from multiple sources. A lawn that isn't fertilized properly and probably isn't being aerated regularly. Fungal attacks and other lawn diseases also attack these neglected lawns.

There is nothing more frustrating than watching a well manicured lawn fall victim to some kind of grass fungus. A lawn disease caused by a fungus of some kind can create unsightly brown patches and can kill large patches of a lawn. You can eliminate lawn fungus once you know what kind of fungus you have. Below is a description and treatment of the 3 most common lawn fungus.

**Common Grass Fungus**

**Leaf Spot**

This grass fungus is caused by Bipolaris sorokiniana. It is identified by the purple and brown spots that appear on the grass blades. If left untreated, it can travel down the blade of grass and cause the roots to rot. This will result in a thin looking lawn. Leaf Spot grass fungus treatment consists of proper care of the lawn.

**Melting Out**

This grass fungus is caused by Drechslera poae. It is frequently associated with Leaf Spot because a lawn affected by leaf spot will be highly susceptible to Melting Out. This lawn disease
starts out as brown spots on the grass blades that move rapidly down to the crown. Once they reach the crown, the grass will begin to die in small brown patches that will continue to grow in size as the fungus progresses. This disease commonly appears in lawns.

**Necrotic Ring Spot**

This grass fungus is caused by *Leptosphaeria korrae*. This fungus is most likely to appear in the spring or fall. The lawn will start to get reddish-brown rings and you will be able to see black “threads” on the crown of the grass. Even with dethatching and proper care, it may take up to 2 years for this lawn disease to come under control.

When a grass fungus gets hold of a yard, many frustrated homeowners are unsure of how to treat the problem. Many don't even recognize that the brown spots or patchy places are a result of lawn or grass fungus and instead try to increase watering or fertilizing in hopes of boosting the lawn's look. Identifying grass fungus and learning treatments for it will allow you to restore the lovely lush lawn you desire.

**Grass mold triggers allergies**

As if the drought hasn't posed enough of a problem. Now, people with allergies or asthma are reporting breathing problems because of a mold, alternaria, that grows on the blades of grass that has gone dormant.

If you stopped watering your lawn weeks ago but still let the kids play in the yard, you might have noticed that the bottoms of their shoes or their feet are covered with a black substance that doesn't simply wipe off. Those are mold spores, and they tend to be greasy and harder to remove than dirt, said Kathleen Cue, a horticulturist with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

The mold grows well on dried-out grass or plants that have been dampened by such sources as morning dew or light rain, Cue said.

Dr. Linda Ford, an allergist who oversees the metro area's pollen-counting station, said the mold spores are showing up in air-quality tests. "We have all the conditions that they (mold spores) like to have," Ford said.

People allergic to the mold are coming to Ford's Asthma and Allergy Center in Bellevue complaining of nasal congestion, drainage and itchy eyes, noses and ears. The mold also can trigger asthma symptoms, Ford said, including coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness.

Treatment for the symptoms, Ford said, includes taking allergy medications and, if problems persist or worsen, visiting an urgent care center or other medical outlet where oral or injectable steroids could be administered.
Cue said people who walk through the dormant grass should remove their shoes when they come inside so they don't track the mold around the house.

Homeowners also can start watering the grass again to "wash everything down into the turf," she said. But that's going to bring the lawn out of dormancy, Cue said, so you'd have to keep watering until the frost comes.

Playground Dangers

Wood Mulch Dangers.

It's been used as surfacing on playgrounds for decades. Every day, countless families go to one of America's numerous parks covered with wood mulch. Wood mulch is a preferred surface for playgrounds. Yet it is not a soft surface. According to Wikipedia, all wood fiber surfaces compact over time.

Wood mulch, commonly referred to as Engineered Wood Fiber, is a certified product that meets all applicable guidelines, with certifications from the ASTM, CPSC and IPEMA. Wood mulch is tested to be safe. Yet it's tested when it's brand new, leveled to the perfect depth, unfrozen, and untouched. It may be safe in the lab but children play on playgrounds, not in laboratories. What happens when mulch gets wet and compacted? What happens when that fresh, moist, mulch dries out after being in the sun? It may no longer meet the safety standards.

Some of the mulch that is being marketed as playground surfacing is the same product used to mulch gardens. The wood fiber surfaces may come from recycled wood material. The problem is wood pallets are made from treated wood which has proven to be toxic. It could contain nails and staples that got mixed into the shredded mulch. Still, wood mulch is one of the most widely-used 'safety' surfaces in the US.

The websites of the largest wood mulch manufacturers in the US are revealing. They have a long list of disclaimers.

Some direct quotes: According to Zeager.com, "During freezing conditions, all of our playground surfaces will naturally be less resilient, particularly with poor drainage. Restrict use of the area accordingly."

Fibar.com states: "Should there be moisture retention in the Fibar System, it will freeze when the temperature drops below the freezing mark. Please check your surface frequently in winter weather. When the surface is frozen, the impact attenuation properties of Fibar are lost and for this reason, the play area should not be used."

They suggest playgrounds be shut down for months on end? Children do not refrain from using the playground in cold weather.
One would think that in wood mulch would be safe in the heat of summer. But wood mulch was found to be hazardous in the dry summer season as well. The manufacturers state that "during a dry season, it may be necessary to wet the surface of the wood fiber with water in order to ensure sufficient moisture content to resist flammability."

Amerimulch.com explains that spontaneous combustion of mulch is not a mystery; it is the natural result of chemical reactions within organic materials. A CBS news article reported about a playground at a school in Arlington, Texas that spontaneously combusted due to smoldering wood mulch.

Luckily no children were playing on the playground. One could always choose to apply a fire retardant but then it's no longer a natural, chemical-free alternative. Wood mulch is simply not appropriate for outdoor use by the manufacturers' own admission.

Zeager.com, a leading wood mulch manufacturer's site, reveals that "Nuisance molds are not uncommon in wood fiber and wood mulch products. Despite the research that has already been conducted, a surefire solution to prevent visible fungus structures from forming has not been found yet. When the wood is wet, bacteria rapidly colonizes and the fungi feed on this bacteria which may lead to slime molds, mushrooms, etc. Short term solutions are to scoop out and dispose of the fungus.

In years past, playgrounds were often set directly into the concrete. That caused hundreds of thousands of serious injuries. Today most playgrounds have some sort of safety surfacing. Still, over 500 kids end up in the emergency room every single day as a result of playground injuries.

Don't take our word for it. This ABC News story tells how unsafe wood mulch can be. Here is the video about the playground that caught on fire. Please investigate your options before choosing a playground surface. Consider looking at rubber options instead of wood.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Dvq-Q4vrX4&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Rubber Mulch Dangers

Rubber mulch is being used for a wide variety of applications from playground surfaces to flower beds, but the dangers are not commonly known to consumers. Rubber mulch is made from recycled tires. Tires are made from rubber and other toxic additives like latex and zinc. When the rubber begins to break down, it releases these toxic chemicals into the soil and possibly even the water, adversely affecting everything around it.

Toxic Chemicals Used to Produce Tires

Rubber tires are typically classified by some states as "hazardous waste." Other states refer to them as "special waste." Many different toxic additives and chemicals are used to produce rubber tires. Among these toxins are cadmium, chromium, aluminum, copper, sulfur and zinc. Bits of the rubber mulch contain small pieces of steel and nylon. Other harmful chemicals found in tires are benzene, phthalates, butylated hydroxyanisole, 3-phenyl and latex.
Dangers to Your Garden

Using rubber mulch in your flower or vegetable garden is toxic to your plants. Rubber tires can be manufactured with as much as 2 percent zinc content, which can be absorbed into your plants when the rubber starts to break down. Most plants cannot grow in such soil conditions. Toxins from the breakdown of the tires kill not only the plants, but also beneficial insects.

Dangers to Your Health

When mulch is heated by the sun, it gives off toxic gases. Two of these gases are VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and PAHs (polyaromatic hydrocarbons). These gases cause irritation and inflammation of the nasal passages and the respiratory system. Toxic gases that are released can also cause depression, headaches, nausea, dizziness and eye and kidney damage. The types of chemicals used to make rubber tires are suspected to be toxic to the developmental, reproductive, endocrine and central nervous systems. Long-term exposure may lead to more serious conditions such as cancer.

Danger of Soil and Water Contamination

There is no doubt that rubber tires are made from toxic substances, therefore rubber mulch will give off these toxins when the tires start to decay. Toxins like manganese, selenium and zinc are then absorbed into the soil and into the plants. In addition to contaminating the soil, these toxins could quite possibly contaminate the ground water as well, although this has not yet been proven.

Other Drawbacks of Rubber Mulch

Another drawback of rubber mulch is the foul odor that is emitted when the mulch gets hot. Rubber mulch can also be a potential fire hazard because it heats up quickly and stays hot to the touch. The temperature of a rubber tire in the sun can exceed 172 degrees F. The heat that is reflected off the hot surface can also increase the risk of heatstroke.

Why install Artificial Turf? The environmental impact is reason alone. Here are some “Pros” to installing artificial turf:

- 60% of all water use in the U.S. goes into watering lawns. Artificial turf significantly cuts your water consumption.
- Residential lawns use an average of 10 times more pesticides per acre than farm crops. Pesticides are unnecessary with artificial grass.
- One-third of an acre of grass uses 170,000 gallons of water in a summer. Water conservation is a key proponent. Lawn mowers in America use 800 million gallons of gas annually.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one hour of operating a lawn mower releases the same amount of pollution as driving a car for 20 miles. Gas-powered landscape equipment causes 5% of urban air pollution.
- The United Nations says it takes the same amount of water (2.5 billion gallons) to support the world’s population of 4.7 billion people as it does to irrigate the world’s golf courses.
Synthetic Grass Benefits:

**Pet Friendly!**

Synthetic Grass /Turf lawns are great for pets, especially dogs. It seems impossible to have a dog and simultaneously maintain a beautiful lawn, but synthetic turf grass is the answer. Dogs and their masters love artificial lawns because they are clean, low maintenance, and always green and lush. Dead spots in your natural grass/sod are a thing of the past. Artificial Turf will enhance your home’s appeal with a beautifully manicured all year-round lawn. Dog droppings and urine with minimal but proper maintenance will not stain or discolor the grass.

**Enjoyment Benefits!**

Synthetic Grass yards will add usable square footage to any home. We hear over and over from our research that they use their lawns much more, where before it was almost an off-limits area. Lawns that were previously a dry, dusty wasteland or an over watered muddy/dirty area are now pristine manicured grass which is always available to be enjoyed. You will find, as most artificial grass owners do, that this product will improve your life in more ways than you think.

**Low Maintenance!**

Homeowners, councils, and property management companies spend large amounts of money on water, fertilizers, pesticides, chemicals, mowing and general labor to keep their natural grass in good condition. No Worries Turf, however, requires none of these costly items. Artificial Turf lawns eliminate many mundane chores related to natural grass. Chores such as pulling weeds, seeding, thatching and aerating are a thing of the past. Spend the most precious resource you have (TIME) doing something other than maintaining your lawn.

**Environmentally Friendly!**

Synthetic Turf/Grass requires no chemicals or pesticides for maintenance, and provides a safe, healthy environment for families and the public.

**Visual Appeal**

Synthetic Turf remains green, lush and soft regardless of climate changes, temperature or other environmental conditions, making it a logical and viable alternative for both home and business use.
Increase Value of Your Property!

How does a **100% to 200%** return on investment ("R.O.I") sound to you? Too good to be true? Not according to a Money Magazine story on home renovations or Penn State University, Department of Landscape Architecture. They both agree that a well done landscaping home improvement offers the best return on investment of any home improvement you can make; and that you will get a **100% to 200%** return on your investment when applied to a home’s resale value. This far surpasses the R.O.I. you could hope to gain from a kitchen remodel, bath remodel, swimming pool, or any other home improvement. Yet homeowners rarely think of landscaping first when remodeling in hopes of commanding a higher home price.

Even if you aren’t planning to move, it’s nice to know you are adding real value to your home by installing synthetic grass — not to mention the savings from water usage and costs of maintaining real grass. And it looks great! Synthetic grass harmonizes well with surrounding foliage.

Our products are very realistic and compliment nature, which gives your home great curb appeal. A real estate appraiser or agent would tell you that landscaping contributes to a home in two ways. First it simply adds to the total value of the property, and second is the aesthetic role landscaping plays when trying to sell a house. It’s tough to measure how powerful a value-oriented landscape could be in the selling process. For a prospective buyer, it is very hard to separate the house and the landscaping. For two houses equal in all other respects, the one with better curbside appeal will sell faster. Though it’s difficult to define what makes a landscape pleasing, it’s obvious to everyone when something’s not. An ugly lawn speaks to the type of owner and how the entire house is cared for. A beautiful lawn can increase the perceived square footage of a home because this is seen as really usable area.

Artificial Turf/Synthetic Turf Grass Lawns are a cost effective alternative to natural sod grass. Return on investment is almost certainly realized within the warranty period of the artificial turf grass lawn product. Artificial grass/synthetic turf lawns can cut your water bill in half, save you on the maintenance costs of a gardener or yard man, possibly save you from installing a sprinkler system, and most importantly add value to your life by giving you a perfectly manicured, maintenance free lawn and leave you with more time to do the things you really enjoy in life. The initial investment in an artificial turf grass lawn is significantly more than a real grass lawn but it is an investment.

We are all familiar with the term curb appeal, the buzz word in re-sale of homes. Realtors know the first impression of a prospective homebuyer is the most important. Additionally, every homeowner wants the most coveted lawn in the neighborhood. Artificial grass can really make a house pop and look much better than others on the market. In today’s competitive housing market this can mean the difference between sale or no sale. Many municipalities are imposing restrictions on what days of the week a homeowner can water their lawn. If they are caught watering their lawn on days not designated a hefty fine will be imposed. Perfect lawns are also not environmentally conscious.
Back in the day, lawns were reserved for aristocracy. They served no functional purpose, other than a cheery patch where kids might play or a blanket might be laid. However, lawns now seem more like a burden for the bourgeoisie. With changing ideals, a better understanding of natural climates, and constraints on time, a home without a lawn and with an interesting landscape is likely to be worth more. Not only does it improve the look of the house, the buyer knows the beautiful and low maintenance front yard is part of the package.

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**Why Choose Artificial Grass?**

There are several good and well thought out reasons to do so. An artificial lawn is ten times easier to look after and maintain than a regular lawn, and you won't have face as much trouble and seasonal surprises.

If you wish to use artificial grass in your landscaping then you will not require a dedicated landscaper to look after it all the time. It will in fact prove you cheaper in the long run as you don’t need to spend as much money maintaining it and taking care of it. Usually artificial lawns just take care of themselves.

Artificial grass can improve the quality of your garden, with reliable, even surfaces and hassle free maintenance. No bumps, uneven surface will get in way of your game.

Artificial grass may require bigger investment initially but its maintenance cost is almost negligible as compared to real grass, and it will remain green and looking fresh all year round. Here are just some the advantages that you can enjoy with an artificial lawn over a traditional one:

1. **Low maintenance costs:**

   Think of all the time you spend keeping your natural lawn looking nice, and then think of what you'll need to do if you get a lawn made of artificial turf.
   
   Artificial grass needs no moving, watering or seeding. While it may be a quite a large investment at the time of its installation but it proves to be cheaper than their natural equivalent in the long term.
   
   Once your artificial lawn is installed you will hardly ever have to spend any money on it. Artificial turf gives you same feel of a real lawn and saves you from the trouble of mowing and fertilizing.

2. **All seasons:**

   The artificial grass can be used throughout the year, in all seasons and pretty much in any weather, and lasts for a very long time. It is subjected to less wear and tear than standard grass.
   
   Artificial grass will never be a problem in summer or winter, in rain or shine. You will not have to face any problem of mud being traipsed in your house from your lawn during a rainy day.
3. Environmentally friendly:

For people who like to think that they are friendly to the environment, synthetic grass is the best option. It doesn't just save a great deal of money but also thousands of gallons of water that you'd use to water it during summer droughts, herbicides and fertilizers used to keep it looking nice and therefore protect the environment from their dangerous effects.

4. Pets love artificial grass:

Many people buy artificial grass because their dogs have completely ruined the lawn by either digging holes or killing the grass and there is also the all too common problem of muddy paw prints on the cream carpet! Laying artificial grass can easily and permanently solve all these problems.

Artificial turf is safe for dogs and other pets and is hard wearing so cannot be destroyed by even the most energetic animals! Artificial Grass will not discolor with dog urine and the smell will not be retained - the grass will simply clean itself when it rains! With the dog dirt simply scoop it up as you would normally do with real grass then again the rain will wash away any bits that remain!

Overall everyone is a winner - the dog can enjoy the garden and will remain clean, and you can enjoy a lovely green garden, which is low maintenance.

5. Less injuries than normal turf:

Many studies have shown that synthetic grass has a significantly lower rate of injury than natural grass and today numerous professional arenas and sports centers around the globe use artificial grass. It is sturdy and is loved by athletes and sports players for being a constant reliable surface.

Maintenance Costs

Drought and the increasing cost of water are reasons many Americans are pulling up their lawns and switching to alternatives like drought-tolerant plants and water-wise landscapes.

The water savings are not the only benefit; homeowners reap additional savings in terms of lower garden supply and labor costs. Natural grass requires regular water, trimming, fertilizer and treatments for any diseases that crop up.

Yes, an artificial lawn is going to seem expensive up front compared to laying natural sod, however, it is important to look at the long term savings. Aside from increasing the value of real estate and improving curb appeal, an artificial lawn usually pays for itself within 3 years and you will no longer be paying the monthly maintenance costs to keep your lawn green.

Lawns May Cause Global Warming.

It's not so much the grass -- which does remove CO2 from the air and store carbon in the soil -- but the care that the lawn needs: applying fertilizer, mowing, irrigation, leaf blowing, etc., all of which produce emissions (four times greater than the amount of carbon stored). Editor's note: Please note at the end of this post that this data is being disputed. The two athletic fields
looked at by the researchers produced even worse results than grass in picnic areas. Soccer and baseball fields get such hard use that they’re often aerated and replanted: Due "to soil disruption by tilling and resodding – they didn’t trap nearly as much carbon as ornamental grass [the grass in picnic areas] but required the same emissions-producing care," the university says. Previous research demonstrated the carbon-storing ability of lawns, but didn’t compare that to the emissions that result from grooming and other care.

All this matters because grass currently covers almost 2 percent of the land in the continental United States.

Advantages of Synthetic Grass vs. Natural Grass

**UTILITY:** Artificial grass can accommodate sustained use, even under environmental stresses, amounting to 8-12 times the annual use of a natural grass surface; OR, natural grass requires recovery between events, after rainfall, watering & for maintenance activities. In optimal conditions, it can only accommodate 1/10th (10%) of the activity a synthetic grass can endure.

**APPEARANCE:** Artificial grass will appear as a well-maintained and groomed grass-playing surface with minimal effort; OR, natural grass requires regimented maintenance for best appearance. Natural grass may discolor or die in unsightly patches.

**SAFETY:** The even, consistent artificial grass surface lends to fewer injuries over natural grass. All-rubber infill material softens impact, provides positive traction and a better, more consistent Gmax rating. About 40% fewer injuries observed in independent study; OR, the uneven surface of natural grass, which could compact to hard, high impact areas or slippery, unpredictable mud conditions. Lower, less consistent Gmax rating, higher abrasion and presence of such hazards as irrigation system appurtenances compromise safety.

**PERFORMANCE:** Faster playing surface throughout artificial grass field with consistent, enhanced traction. Balls will react similarly to well-groomed grass, providing realistic play athletes expect; OR, inconsistent playing surface of natural grass; sometimes-patchy growths can cause unpredictable ball movements; leave those playing sports vulnerable to injuries from unexpected; inconsistent surfaces.

**WARRANTY:** 10-year insurable, manufacturer’s warranty on artificial grass; OR, natural grass is rarely warranted, except for quality of original installation.
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