

# JOIN US IN PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES

## Commit to these best practices of sustainable lawn care

- 1 Choose a natural fertilizer**  
Compost is best, or use natural fertilizer. Use a fertilizer with a water-insoluble nitrogen content less than 12%.
- 2 Apply natural insecticides**  
Such as milky spore, neem oil, or diatomaceous earth.
- 3 Eliminate weeds early**  
Dig up small patches by hand; for larger areas use natural products.
- 4 Mow high, cut grass at 3".**  
Leave clippings on the lawn to add nutrients to the soil.
- 5 Water less, but longer.**  
Lawns need about an inch of water a week. Adjust your irrigation system accordingly.



**Website:** [coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org](http://coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org)

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## We swim, boat, and fish in our surface waters

## We live on top of our drinking water

Storm-water runoff washes over lawns and paved surfaces, flowing into nearby storm drains and directly into waterways.

High-nitrogen fertilizers in runoff cause algal blooms and fish kills.

Chemical pesticides and weed killers leach into our aquifers and threaten the safety of our drinking water.

If you maintain your own lawn and garden, you can find natural products at most garden centers.

Most landscaping services know how to maintain a lawn without using high-nitrogen fertilizers or chemical pesticides, but will use these products for a quick “green up” in the spring. Request natural alternatives.

Consider xeriscaping: water conservation through creative landscaping.



### Learn more at:

[www.epa.gov/watersense/what-plant](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/what-plant)

[www.liwater.org](http://www.liwater.org)

[www.ccesuffolk.org/gardening/horticulture-factsheets/lawn-care](http://www.ccesuffolk.org/gardening/horticulture-factsheets/lawn-care)