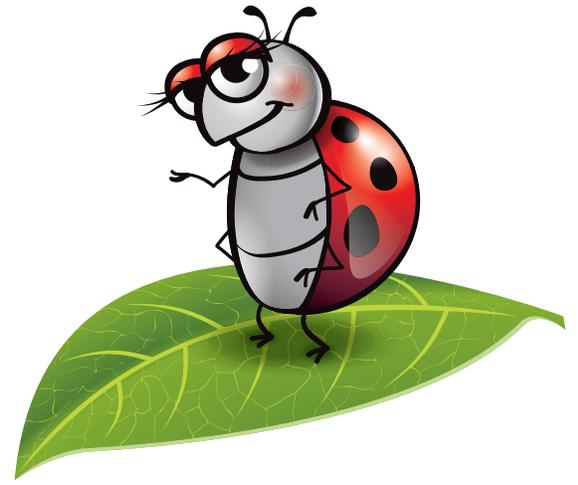


# Newmarket is Proud to be Pesticide Free



## Organic Lawn Care Tips

September 1, 2008, Newmarket will officially be pesticide free. Prepare your lawn for a safe, healthy, pesticide free existence by following these organic lawn care tips!

### 1. FEED YOUR SOIL

Rake an inch of compost into your lawn every spring and fall. Composting returns nutrients back into the soil. You can buy compost at your nearest lawn and garden centre, or create your own with a backyard composter. These can be purchased from Newmarket's Operations Centre (623 Timothy Street) for only \$33!

### 2. FEED YOUR GRASS

Leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing. As they decompose they return environmentally friendly nutrients like nitrogen back into the soil. This will reduce the amount of fertilizer you use by approximately half.

### 3. MOW HIGH

Set your mower to the high setting when cutting grass. Grass that is 3-4 inches long conserves moisture and nutrients better, is more stress tolerant and provides shade, reducing weed growth.

### 4. BE WATER WISE

Water longer, but less frequently. A deep watering once a week—approximately 2.5 cm (1 inch) of water—will encourage healthy roots. Water in the early morning or evening to prevent evaporation and don't water if it's going to rain.

### 5. WEED BY HAND

It might take longer, but it does a better job. For easy removal, pull weeds when the ground is moist or purchase tools like hoes and weeders from your local lawn and garden centre. You can also look for organic products that will kill weeds.

### 6. AERATE

Give your lawn some air. Aerating loosens the soil, promotes root growth, encourages proper drainage and allows oxygen to reach into the soil. Many lawn care companies can provide this service for you.

### 7. RE-SEED ANNUALLY

Adding more seed thickens your grass and discourages weed growth. Re-seed every spring or fall for best results.

### 8. USE A NATURAL APPROACH TO PEST CONTROL

Common lawn pests that cause damage may be eliminated through natural pesticide alternatives. Check out your local lawn and garden centre for a list of products.

*Visit [www.newmarket.ca](http://www.newmarket.ca) to learn more about the pesticide bylaw and how to combat insects with organic items and products found in your home.*



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