



YARD SMART CERTIFICATION

Chemical-Free Yard

Name(s) (PRINT)

Address:

City:

Zip:

Phone(s) Day:

Evening:

Email:

Chemical-Free Yard

Homeowners with the Chemical-Free Yard eliminate use of synthetic pesticides (*including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.*) which can harm humans (especially children), pets, wildlife and the environment. They also avoid use of synthetic ammonia fertilizers which can contaminate local groundwater and kill beneficial micro-organisms in the soil. Instead, they choose organic lawn and garden practices that help build rich soil life and plant health, preventing disease and helping plants withstand environmental stress. **BOTH** items must be checked for this certification.

Total Elimination of Synthetic Pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.)

Try These Safer Alternatives:

REDUCE STRESS

- ✓ Mow grass high (3"). Often. Only when dry. Cut less than 1/3 of blade. Use sharp blades.
- ✓ Proper watering – infrequently, deeply so roots penetrate soil deeply, cool times of day.

WEED CONTROL

- ✓ Mow high (3-4") to shade out weeds
- ✓ Corn gluten pre-emergent weed control (early spring, late fall)
- ✓ Hand-weed and/or weed-wacker
- ✓ Sprinkle grass seed on bare spots; build thick turf to discourage weed seeds
- ✓ Spot control with organic products (vinegar/lemon spray, hot water/vinegar)
- ✓ Replace turf grass with native plants

INSECT CONTROL

- ✓ Insecticidal soap
- ✓ Horticultural & garlic oil
- ✓ Hot pepper repellant
- ✓ Neem tree products
- ✓ Diatomaceous earth
- ✓ Traps
- ✓ Milky spore for grubs
- ✓ Nematodes (tiny soil worms) for grubs
- ✓ Spiked sandals (Spikes of Death) to kill grubs.

FUNGUS CONTROL

- ✓ Sulfur fungicide
- ✓ Proper watering – infrequently, deeply, early morning (avoid evening/night)
- ✓ Baking soda
- ✓ Copper products

Total Elimination of Synthetic Ammonia-Based Fertilizers

Try These Safer Alternatives:

- ✓ Leave grass clippings on lawn
- ✓ Organic fertilizer ("slow-release")
- ✓ Kelp extract to boost soil micronutrients
- ✓ Compost or liquid compost (spread 1/4" thick) to replace soil life depleted by chemicals.
- ✓ Microbial inoculants to replace soil life depleted by chemicals
- ✓ Replace turf with native plants
- ✓ Overseed with self-fertilizing Dutch clover
- ✓ Rock dust minerals

Mail this Application with ORDER FORM to:

ATTENTION: Yard Smart
Ecology Action Center
202 West College Ave
Normal IL 61761

Questions?

CALL US at 309/454-3169

EMAIL: eac@ecologyactioncenter.org

WEBSITE: www.ecologyactioncenter.org