



YARDSCAPING PARTNERS:

YardScaping – QUICK FACTS

Maine Board of Pesticides Control, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Soil & Water Conservation Districts, The Friends of Casco Bay, Congress of Lake Associations, Maine State Planning Office, Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association, Southern Maine Community College, City of Portland Town of Brunswick (and growing all the time)

THREE REASONS TO YARDSCAPE:

Water pollution. Heavy rains or watering can wash away lawn fertilizers and pesticides and impact water quality. They can end up in bays, rivers, lakes and groundwater--our drinking water source.

People's health. We do not know exactly the long-term effects of pesticide use or exposure. Medical experts believe we should avoid using them unnecessarily. Children, pregnant/nursing women and seniors should especially avoid exposure.

Air pollution. Reducing your lawn size to what you really need is YardScaping 101. Using a power mower consumes fossil fuels and causes air pollution. A lawnmower pollutes as much in one hour as a car driving 350 miles.

YARD CARE PESTICIDES PURCHASED IN MAINE IN 2004:

3 million pounds (more than tripled since 1995)

YARD CARE PESTICIDES FOUND IN CASCO BAY FROM 2001–05:

Diazinon	Dicamba	2,4-D
Clopyralid	Propiconazole	MCPA
MCPP		

ACRES OF LAWN IN THE U.S.:

20 million

AMOUNT OF GRASS CLIPPINGS 1/3 ACRE PRODUCES ANNUALLY:

2 tons

TIME ONE PERSON SPENDS MOWING ANNUALLY:

40 hours (a typical work week)

SOIL TEST KIT:

University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3591, \$12

BENEFICIAL WILDLIFE & INSECTS:

Bats, bees, wasps, birds, earthworms, ladybugs, lacewings, dragonflies, spiders, toads

GRASS THAT REQUIRES THE MOST NITROGEN FERTILIZER:

Improved Kentucky bluegrass (which happens to be the most commercially available seed)