

Lake-friendly Lawns

Birds? Butterflies? Beautiful flowers? Clean lakes? What's not to love!

NH LAKES works with property owners throughout the state to evaluate sites and provide lake-friendly advice that helps beautify properties while fixing problems that pollute our lakes.



Why Natural Lawns?

- Needs minimal maintenance
- Stays green during drought
- Grows well in shade
- Provides pollinator habitat
- Eliminates use of algae-causing fertilizer
- Holds up to foot traffic
- Increased water infiltration
- Helps keeps lakes clean and healthy



Picture a lawn...

You probably think of a green, manicured expanse of grass that many homeowners take pride and joy in. But here's the bad news...Grass doesn't do much to help keep the lake clean and healthy, and, in fact, it can harm the lake.

Lawns are costly to maintain and can be costly to the lake, too! Single species grass lawns:

- Don't effectively soak up polluted runoff water.
- Don't provide wildlife habitat.
- Are often treated with fertilizers that contribute to toxic cyanobacteria blooms in lakes.

What can you do to make your lawn lake-friendly?

- Improve soil health by aerating and dethatching your lawn! This process creates small holes in the soil, allowing oxygen to reach the roots so that it can grow stronger and capture more runoff.
- Don't use fertilizer. Overseed your lawn with clover seed, which naturally fertilizes your lawn.
- Once you are comfortable with the clover, experiment by adding wildflowers and other native groundcover seeds! You can find native seeds at newp.com.

Go the extra step by creating a meadow!

- Create a meadow on your property by selecting a strip or corner of the lawn and stop mowing it.
- You'll find that wildflowers quickly volunteer to provide exceptional habitat for pollinators and birds (and they help keep the lake clean, too!).

Established in 1992, the mission of NH LAKES, a statewide, publicly supported nonprofit organization, is to restore and preserve the health of New Hampshire's lakes. For more information, visit nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 603.226.0299.

