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**HOME
and
GARDEN**

**Going
Organic...**

Most people unfortunately think that going organic simply means not applying anything to their lawn. On the contrary organic lawn care is

actually a very involved, and scientific process.

The theory behind organic lawn care is that a strong and healthy plant will be able to resist disease and stress. Much like a strong human body can fight off infections and diseases, strong and healthy plants are much more able to resist a wide variety of plant diseases. Like humans, plants are what they "eat", with grass being no exception. Feeding it with the wrong fertilizer could be akin to feeding a human pizza seven days a week. It may be a lot of food, but it is not a healthy balance, which is very detrimental. A typical lawn fertilizer advertises its nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium components, but there are also many minor and micronutrients that are just as important for a lush and healthy lawn.

Soil ph balance is also an important factor to consider, as grass prefers acidic soil with an ideal ph of 6.4. Many factors can affect lawn ph. For example, trees, road salt, and dog's urine. However, soil amendments such as lime treatment can help to balance the effects of some of these adverse situations.

One of the major problems in new housing subdivisions is a lack of sufficient topsoil. Topdressing in early to mid September with a nutrient rich soil mixture can substantially increase the levels of organic matter in your lawn. This must be applied in a very thin level of topdressing, as it is imperative not to smother the existing lawn. Aeration is also something to consider, as it is an excellent method of encouraging root growth. Aeration can be done in spring or the fall, and is a process involving the removal of small cores of soil from the lawn to reduce compaction.

People may remember watching our fathers go outside and cut the lawn to within an inch of its life. We now know that this causes a large amount of unnecessary stress on your lawn. Today with the many water restrictions that we face, cutting the lawn at 2 to 3 inches can not only reduce the stress factors on your lawn, and is one of the easiest things that we can do to maintain a healthy lawn.

As you can see, organic lawn care is not simply buying the latest organic fertilizer to hit the market, but involves a comprehensive analysis of each particular lawn in order to achieve the healthy and lush look we all love.

This article submitted by Colin Marr of Danmar Lawn Care Ltd.

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