



### **Go Green Northbrook**

is a non-affiliated, grassroots organization composed of residents of Northbrook, IL. Our mission is to bring about initiatives and education in our community that promote environmental consciousness, outdoor enthusiasm, and a healthy, sustainable approach to living. We are a group for anyone willing to make an effort — small or large — towards encouraging and leading an environmentally thoughtful life.

## **FERTILIZATION & WEED CONTROL**

### **URBAN FOREST & ECOSYSTEM TEAM**

#### **FERTILIZATION**

Most lawn care services, whether they use synthetic or natural products, only address three nutrients with their fertilizers: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. While these nutrients are needed in high amounts, there are 13 others that are necessary for plant health. There are also other components that go into the makeup of healthy soil; humates, beneficial fungi, bacteria and other micro-organisms.

Since lawn problems result from nutrient deficiencies, lack of organic matter, improper pH (relative acidity) and other soil problems we perform a soil test after doing pre-emergent and basic feeding. The results from this test tell us what corrections need to be made to achieve the turf you desire. We use products that can increase organic matter, improve soil tilth (structure), change pH, add beneficial micro-organisms and correct nutrient deficiencies.

As you can see, the natural approach to lawn care differs from what most traditional services offer. Instead of using the same thing on everyone's yard in a "treat and hope" method, we use science and the natural system to get results. Just like every person in your neighborhood is not the same, every lawn in your neighborhood is not the same and should be dealt with on an individual basis.

#### **WEED CONTROL**

This is the area of lawn care you can have the most positive impact on your environment, by eliminating harmful pesticides. After years of use, it is now apparent that even the small amounts of poisons used in chemical weed control have detrimental effects when used long term. For instance, there are a dozen pesticides approved for home use that could kill birds. One of the goals of natural lawn care is to discontinue the use of these products.

Weeds are a symptom of problems with the soil and cultural habits. They indicate compaction, problems with pH, mowing too low, improper watering, nutrient deficiency and poor drainage. The soil contains millions of weed seeds just waiting for the opportune time to germinate. Chemical herbicides will not change this fact and continually spraying your lawn with these pesticides does not permanently eliminate weeds.

The natural way to get rid of weeds is through improving the health of the soil, proper watering, proper mowing practices and over-seeding to outcompete weeds.

Weeds can be controlled with a natural lawn care system. If you have kept your lawn weed free with synthetic weed control products, you are not likely to get a lawn full of dandelions or chickweed in the year you transition to natural lawn care. Natural lawn care accepts the premise that it is better to put up with a few weeds than to expose yourself, your children and your pets to dangerous poisons.

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WEBSITE:

[www.gogreennorthbrook.org](http://www.gogreennorthbrook.org)

BLOG:

[gogreennorthbrook.blogspot.com](http://gogreennorthbrook.blogspot.com)

EMAIL:

[gogreennorthbrook@gmail.com](mailto:gogreennorthbrook@gmail.com)