

**LONGING FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF SUMMER IN YOUR YARD?
(Short Version)**

Are you interested in trying a different approach to lawn care that would mean less work and less pollution while providing more beauty in your yard?

Join the Air Pollution Control District's **Lawn Care for Cleaner Air** program and learn to make changes that save you time and money, benefit air quality and the quality of your life.

Did you know that operating a typical (4-HP) gasoline-powered mower for one hour produces the same amount of smog-forming hydrocarbons as driving an average car almost 200 miles under typical driving conditions?

“**Lawn Care for Cleaner Air**” includes landscaping that can beautify and simplify your yard with minimal use of gasoline-powered lawn-maintenance equipment. There are many alternatives to turf grass, such as shrubs and trees, perennials and ground covers.

Other alternatives to gasoline-powered lawn maintenance equipment include these lawn maintenance options, and Jefferson County residents can receive a **rebate for up to \$100 for switching to cleaner mowing options:**

- **Corded or battery-operated electric mulching mowers**, for larger lots; reel (human-powered) mowers, for smaller lots:
- **Electric string trimmers and leaf blowers**, corded or with batteries.

More and more property owners are choosing to re-landscape, eliminating much of the grass that must be mowed. In its place, plants that need little water and maintenance may be chosen to give your green space special appeal. Large spaces may support islands of trees and shrubs tied together with mulch, while small spaces may call for ground cover, shrubs, trees, and tiny flowerbeds. Grass for kids to play on may be incorporated into either of these landscapes, but you may find that your children prefer the more interesting and varied landscapes. Take a look at the APCD website, www.apcd.org/lawncare for free low-maintenance landscape designs and suitable plants that will help you save money, and reduce mowing grass and raking leaves, leaving you more time for the things you really want to do. Call (502) 574-5322 for information on lawn equipment rebates or low-maintenance landscaping. **It all adds up to cleaner air!**

**LONGING FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF SUMMER IN YOUR YARD?
(Longer version)**

Are you interested in trying a different approach to lawn care that would mean less work and/or less pollution while providing more beauty and wildlife habitat in your yard or corporate lawns?

Join the Air Pollution Control District's **Lawn Care for Cleaner Air** program and see how you can make changes that save you time and money, benefit air quality and the quality of your life.

Did you know that operating a typical (4-HP) gasoline-powered mower for one hour produces the same amount of smog-forming hydrocarbons as driving an average car almost 200 miles under typical driving conditions?

“**Lawn Care for Cleaner Air**” includes various types of landscaping that can visually enhance your yard with minimal use of gasoline-powered equipment such as lawn mowers, string trimmers, and leaf blowers. There are many alternatives to turf grass, such as shrubs and trees, perennials and native plants, ground covers and decorative grasses, rock gardens, Japanese-style gardens; the list goes on and on.

Other alternatives to gasoline-powered lawn maintenance equipment include these lawn maintenance options, and **Jefferson County residents can receive a rebate for up to \$100 for switching to cleaner mowing options:**

- **Corded or battery-operated electric mowers, for larger lots:** The newer cordless electric mowers, including robot mowers, have a battery pack that is plugged into an electrical outlet to charge, then plugged into the mower when you are ready to mow.
- **Reel (mechanical) mowers, for smaller lots:** The newer reel mowers are light in weight, and have self-sharpening blades.
- **Electric string trimmers and leaf blowers,** corded or with batteries do a great job of keeping your yard neat and well trimmed.

More and more property owners all over the United States are choosing to re-landscape, eliminating much of the grass that must be mowed. In its place, plants that need little water and maintenance may be chosen, to give your green space special appeal, whether it is a cool, restful shady sitting area, or a riot of color from your favorite wildflowers and perennials. Large spaces may support islands of trees and shrubs tied together with mulch or native grasses with wildflowers mixed in, while small spaces may call for ground cover, shrubs, trees, and tiny flower beds. Personalize your green space to meet your family's needs. Grass for kids to play on may be incorporated into either of these landscapes, but you may find that your children prefer the more interesting and varied landscapes. Imagine a child's tea party among the Dutchman's breeches, Virginia bluebells, hostas, ground covers, shrubs and trees, instead of grass!

Too much trouble, you say? Yes, it may take a while to get your new landscape transformed from turf, but you can start now with a small strip, an island or a border around your yard with low-maintenance plants. Every year, do a little more, until you have a different and exciting landscape.

Don't know how? Last year APCD sponsored a Low-Maintenance Landscaping Design Competition. Winning landscapes from this competition are on the APCD website, www.apcd.org/lawncare, and they are free for you to use or get ideas to transfer to your own landscape, including suitable plants. Contact your Cooperative Extension Office for information on gardening and low-maintenance landscaping. (in Jefferson County, the number is 569-2344.) Ask your gardening friends for ideas. You will be surprised how glad they are to share plants and spread the gardening message! There are many good landscaping contractors who can design a low-maintenance yard that you can install—or have them install—at your own pace.

Too expensive? Think about it: if you pay to have your lawn mowed, what do you spend in a month? A season? In 5 years? An investment in low-maintenance landscaping will pay itself off in a relatively short time in savings on seeding, fertilizing mowing, raking, and chemical lawn treatments.

Too time consuming? Add up the hours you spend sowing grass seed, fertilizing, weeding, mowing, trimming, and then raking the leaves in the fall. “Pay” yourself for your time, just as you get paid for your job, then calculate what this job of tending turf is costing you. It may make new landscaping seem inexpensive, by comparison.

Then there are the other benefits: the beauty of a nicely landscaped yard, reduction in the amount of harmful chemicals spread on the grass *where your children and pets play*, less watering when you choose drought-resistant plants, the wildlife you invite to your yard with alternative landscaping, and the extra time you will have to devote to things you *really* want to do.

Here's how to start: Look for the KAIRE Low-Maintenance Landscaping booth at the Home, Garden, and Remodeling Show, March 10-12 and see the exciting landscapes that you can use to help you get ideas on the best ways to get started. **(Note: Omit first sentence in this paragraph if printed after March 10, 2006)** Call APCD at (502) 574-5322 or check out our web page on lawn care: www.apcd.org/lawncare for more information and for pictures of air-friendly landscaping. Find out how you can win the Lawn Care for Cleaner Air award for minimizing the use of gasoline-powered equipment. You can display your laminated certificate in your own front or back yard, and help educate your neighbors so you will all breathe cleaner air and have a more beautiful neighborhood. You can also get information on rebates up to \$100 for electric or battery-powered lawn mowing and maintenance equipment. **It all adds up to cleaner air!**