



# CLEAN OCEAN ACTION

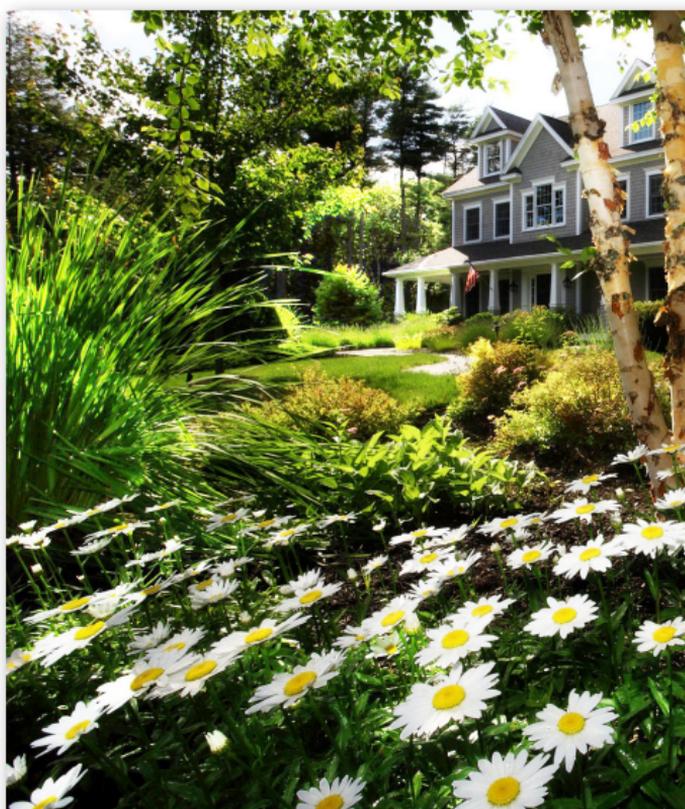
## 10 Tips Series

### Tips for Lawn & Garden

- 1. Reduce the size of your lawn.** Grass lawns are high maintenance, expensive, and add to run-off problems. Minimize lawn area and paved surfaces, and plant native plants.
- 2. Enjoy a healthy and fertilizer-free yard.** Avoid using fertilizers to reduce polluted runoff. Test soil to be sure fertilizer is needed and to select an appropriate regimen. If you must fertilize, use slow-release nitrogen or organic fertilizer minimally when weather is warm.
- 3. Aerate your soil** and remove dead leaves by raking to strengthen the lawn.
- 4. Cut it & leave it.** Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer. Mow high and often to reduce stress on grass and retain moisture.
- 5. Water in the early morning** and only when the soil is dry. Water roots and reduce the frequency of watering. Use moisture sensors if you use auto sprinklers. Cultivate and mulch your gardens to fortify soil and help retain its moisture.

**6. Install rain barrels** at your house downspouts to reuse rain water and save money.

**7. A rain garden** is a low maintenance, eco-friendly, and beautiful way to reduce storm-water volume and prevent pollution while averting soil erosion.





**8. Start a compost pile.** Leaves and garden waste, as well as food waste (except meat, fish, and citrus products), can be used to create a natural, nutrient-rich fertilizer.

**9. Avoid chemical pesticides or herbicides.** Chemicals applied to the lawn or garden run-off into waterways causing pollution and degrading water quality. Pheromone traps and biological non-toxic controls are safer and healthier for everyone.

**10. Plant native vegetation and trees.** They absorb more water and are less maintenance. A naturally vegetated buffer or area of native plantings, especially along waterways, filters pollutants.

### **A Homeowner's Guide to New Jersey's Fertilizer Law**

Consumer lawn fertilizer sold or used in NJ must have at least 20% of its nitrogen in "slow-release" form and cannot contain phosphorous, with some exceptions. The law prohibits fertilizer application from November 15th - March 1st or any other time the ground is frozen. It is prohibited for fertilizer to be applied within 25 ft. of waterways, before heavy rains, or on impervious surfaces. If you use a lawn service, be sure they are certified.

*Nonpoint source or "pointless" pollution is the #1 cause of coastal water pollution resulting from stormwater runoff that carries litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and waste from leaky sewage systems into waterways. Every time it rains, polluted stormwater travels to the nearest storm drain or waterbody that ultimately drains to the ocean. People can easily become the solution to pollution. By making small changes we can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.*



**For more information and the complete  
10 Tip Series visit us at: [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)**

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