

# LawnSmart Resources

## Mower Maintenance & Blade Sharpening

**Accusharp Services** (213 East 1st Street, North Vancouver - 604.986.2516) (*sharpening only*)

**Arrow Equipment** (1433 Pemberton Avenue, North Vancouver - 604.987.9926)\*

**Pikes/Capilano Rentals** (1534 Main Street, North Vancouver, 604.987.6564)\*

**Clyde Small Motors**, (1347 Ambleside Lane, West Vancouver - 604.926.2120)\*

**M&M Mobile Sharpening** (On-site, mobile service - 604.986.9988) (*sharpening only*)

**Pacific Arborist Supplies Ltd.** (154 Riverside Dr., North Vancouver - 604.929.6133)\*

**Precision Saw Service Ltd.** (342 East Esplanade, North Vancouver - 604.988.2002) (*sharpening only, blade must be removed first*). Rotary only - no reel mower sharpening.

(\* *lawn aerators* available for rental)

## Backyard Compost Bins

\$35 at the **North Shore Recycling Drop-off Depot** - 29 Riverside Drive, North Vancouver (cheque or money order) or [www.nsrp.bc.ca](http://www.nsrp.bc.ca) (link to online credit card ordering).



## North Shore Transfer Station

30 Riverside Drive, North Vancouver, BC

**Hazardous Household Waste Drop-off** facility (visit [www.productcare.ca](http://www.productcare.ca) for details).

**Purchase 'recycled' soil** for lawn top-dressing, mulch material, etc. (visit [www.fraserrichmond.ca](http://www.fraserrichmond.ca))

## More Information

Williamson, Don. "**Lawns for Canada - Natural and Organic**". Lone Pine Books, 2005.

**BC Landscape & Nursery Association**  
[www.gardenwise.bc.ca](http://www.gardenwise.bc.ca)

**North Shore LawnSmart (part of GardenSmart)**  
[www.lawnsmart.ca](http://www.lawnsmart.ca)

**GVRD Compost Hotline**  
604.736.2250

# North Shore GardenSmart

**GardenSmart** is a joint program of the District of North Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver, and the District of West Vancouver, and is administered by the North Shore Recycling Program (NSRP). **GardenSmart** provides information to North Shore residents through community workshops, school programs, and our award-winning North Shore Natural Gardens Tour. For program details and information, call the NSRP at 604.984.9730 or visit the website at [www.gardensmart.ca](http://www.gardensmart.ca).

## North Shore Natural Gardens Tour

[www.naturalgardentour.com](http://www.naturalgardentour.com)

## GardenSmart Workshops

A series of informative, practical and **free workshops** offered March through May each year. Topics include lawn maintenance, garden pest control, composting, and others. Check your garbage & recycling calendar for details.

## Natural Garden Parties

A limited number of fun, informative **backyard gardening workshops** are offered each year to North and West Vancouver residents. A minimum of 15 participants is required per workshop. Call the NSRP at **604.984.9730** or email to [info@gardensmart.ca](mailto:info@gardensmart.ca) for details or to book.

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**North Shore Recycling Program**  
604.984.9730  
[www.gardensmart.ca](http://www.gardensmart.ca)  
District of North Vancouver  
City of North Vancouver  
District of West Vancouver



7  
Simple  
Steps  
to a  
Great  
Lawn

(on the  
North Shore)

[www.lawnsmart.ca](http://www.lawnsmart.ca)  
lawn care that makes sense

# LawnSmart

## lawn care that makes sense

### Getting a great lawn doesn't have to be complicated.

Even one simple step, like spreading a thin layer of compost over the grass, will have you well on your way to a healthier and more disease-resistant lawn (of course, adding some of the other steps will get you there even faster).

**Did you know? Clover is not a weed**, but an important companion plant. It takes nitrogen from the air and puts it in the soil where grass can use it. It's good stuff!

STEP

1

### Stay Sharp

Sharpen your lawnmower blades each year. Sharp blades prevent grass from tearing and becoming susceptible to disease.

STEP

2

### Mow High

Set your mower blade height to the highest setting. A grass height of 5 to 6 cm (about 3 inches) or higher helps crowd out weeds and also conserves moisture in the soil (less watering required!).  
**Tip:** Mow regularly & never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time (mowing lower stresses the grass).

**It's good to know... Thatch** is dead plant material that builds up in a lawn & doesn't decompose. **Lawns treated with chemical fertilizers & pesticides are more likely to develop thatch** than lawns that never see a pesticide. Why? Pesticides destroy earthworms and other organisms that keep lawn soil healthy. You can encourage good bugs and keep thatch at bay by spreading a thin layer of compost over the lawn once or twice a year.



STEP

3

### Leave it on the Lawn

Leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing. They're a great nutrient source for the grass (providing up to 33% of your lawn's nitrogen needs over the growing season) and doing so does NOT cause thatch (honestly!).

STEP

4

### Spread Compost

Rake a thin (1/4") layer of finished compost over your lawn once or twice each year. Compost adds important nutrients and builds healthy, disease-resistant grass. Where do you get compost? Your very own backyard composter, of course! Or you can purchase topdressing for a nominal fee at the North Shore Transfer Station (see **Resources** section on back). Another option is to apply a slow-release organic fertilizer. **Tip:** Avoid fertilizing until *after* the first rush of spring growth - excessive early growth spurred by fertilizing can weaken root systems and leave lawns susceptible to disease.

STEP

5

### Add Lime

Apply lime to the lawn (as recommended on the bag) - this helps to neutralize acidity. North Shore soils tend to be acidic, making nutrients less available and reducing soil microorganism and earthworm activity.



**You might not know about... the Screwdriver Test.** Find out if your lawn needs aeration by poking the turf with a screwdriver - if it sinks in easily, you don't need to aerate. If it's difficult to push in (i.e., the soil under your lawn has become compacted), you likely need aeration. If weeds are a concern, aerate in the fall to avoid bringing weed seeds to the surface. And always remember to topdress with compost! Mechanical aerators can be rented locally (see reverse).

STEP

6

### Sow the Seeds

Overseed your lawn every year with a good quality lawn seed mix (ask staff at your local garden centre for recommendations). A good time to overseed is after aerating the soil, or when topdressing with compost. A strong, dense lawn helps prevent weeds from getting established. **Tip:** When removing occasional weeds by hand, add a sprinkle of grass seed mix to any patches of bare earth.

**Did you know?** There are some hardy **groundcover plants** that are much more suitable than grass for some hard-to-grow areas. Just ask at your local garden centre.

STEP

7

### Water Wisely

Water deeply, about an inch, once per week (put a tuna can on the lawn to measure how long this takes for your sprinkler). Watering more frequently can cause shallow, unhealthy root systems. **Tip:** Mid-day watering wastes water, as most of the moisture is lost to evaporation. The best time to water is in the early morning.

**You might not know...** Most lawn grasses are **meant to go brown and dormant** during the summer months. The grass plants that make up most of our lawns are cool season grasses which naturally go dormant in the summer and green up again with the autumn rains. Brown can be good!