

County experts give lawn care advice

Freeman, The (Waukesha, WI) – Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Section: Local News

WAUKESHA– As summer gardening begins, Waukesha County experts are giving advice on fertilizing and lawn care that also keeps city water clean and chemical free.

The county suggest that prior to fertilizing, residents should test their soil. Testing bags and instructions are available at the UW-Extension office at 515 Moreland Blvd., room ACG222. The procedure will explain how much fertilizer is actually needed to support lawn growth.

The soil test can also show if weeds are a symptom of soil complications or lack of nutrients.

If soil has not been tested, county residents should look for low or no-phosphorus fertilizer. The county's soil tends to be high in phosphorus naturally.

The county suggests a natural lawn care approach will save cost and time, while keeping water clean for the city.

During hot or dry times it is OK to allow the lawn to go dormant, unless caring for a new lawn. If residents prefer to water their lawns, they should water one inch, once a week. Frequent watering allows plants to have shallow, weak roots.

Studies suggest that a few weeds in a lawn is not harmful, and something that lawn owners should not have concerned about. Also, keeping grass blades relatively long is beneficial for a lawn. The county suggests that a lawn mower blade should be set at three inches. Residents should still mow often enough to lower stress on grass, which makes them more susceptible to weeds.

For more tips on contributing to a clean local environment and a healthy lawn go to <http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/cleanwater>.

– **Jordyn Noennig** , Special to The Freeman