Organic Landscape Alliance

Mark MacKenzie, President

www.organiclandscape.org



- Background on OLA
- Why a bylaw is needed
- A brief primer on how true Organic Lawn Care works

Who is OLA?

- A non-profit trade association committed to the promotion and development of organic horticulture
- A network of professional landscaping businesses that flourish without the use of chemical pesticides

What does OLA do?

- Networking and educational opportunities for members
- Public outreach, tips on our website, plus referral list to local organic landscapers
- Actively advances organic industry perspective to decision makers at all three political levels.

OLA History

- OLA was formed in 1998 by a small group committed to lawn care and landscaping without chemical pesticides.
- Since then, OLA has grown in membership, held 7 annual conferences and witnessed increasing public interest in organic landscaping.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT CHEMICAL PESTICIDE USE?

"In what has been called a massive, uncontrolled, global biochemical experiment, pesticides are now essentially universal in surface waters, soils and biological systems...so much research has yet to be done on the full range of toxicity potentialities (Canadian **Association of Physicians for the** Environment, 2000)."

Pesticides & Children

- Children are more vulnerable to the risks of pesticides
 - Eat, drink, and breathe more per kilogram of body weight than adults
 - Behaviour (putting toys, grass & soil in their mouths, breathing close to the ground) increases exposure to pesticides
 - Unable to process and eliminate chemicals as adults do.

Flaws in the registration process

- Science by nature is objective
 - This registration process is not
- Healthy worker syndrome/risk assessment
- No long term or synergistic data
- The auditor general audits more than books



- Not enough officers
- When pressed, regulations are just guidelines
 - Wind
 - Rain



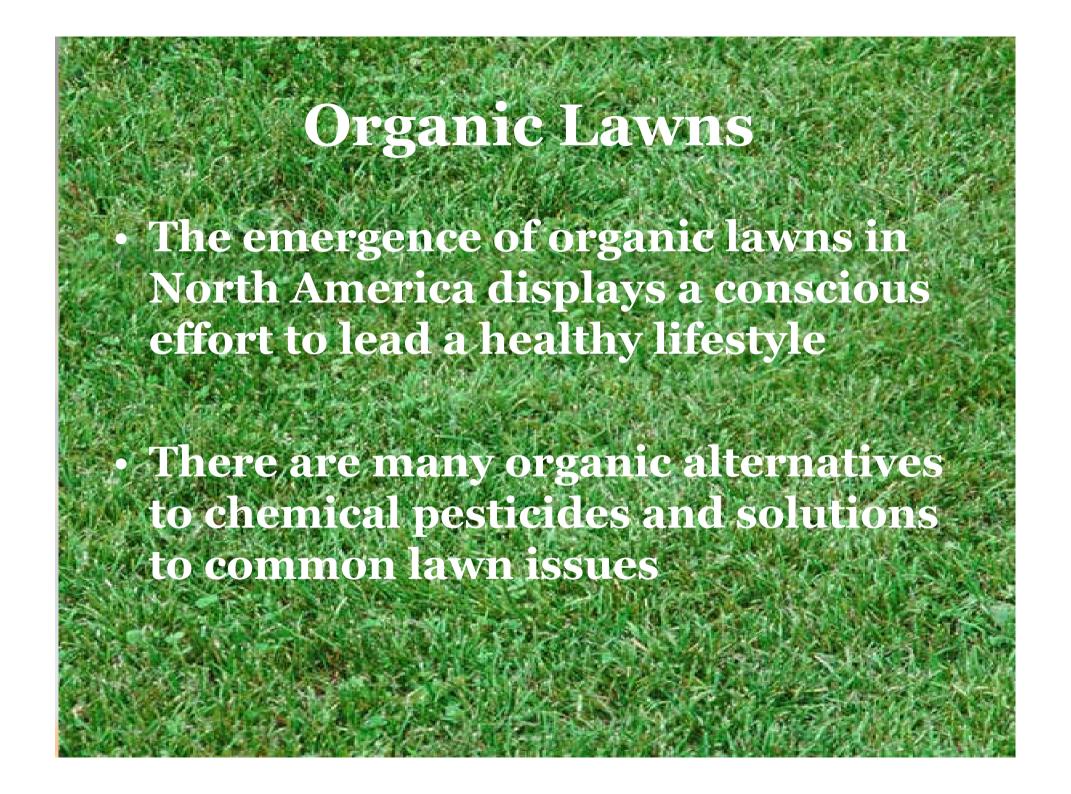
Truth in Advertising

- Lawn care companies claim to spot spray
- No standards for advertising is being enforced
- What is a label?
- Beware the term "organic"

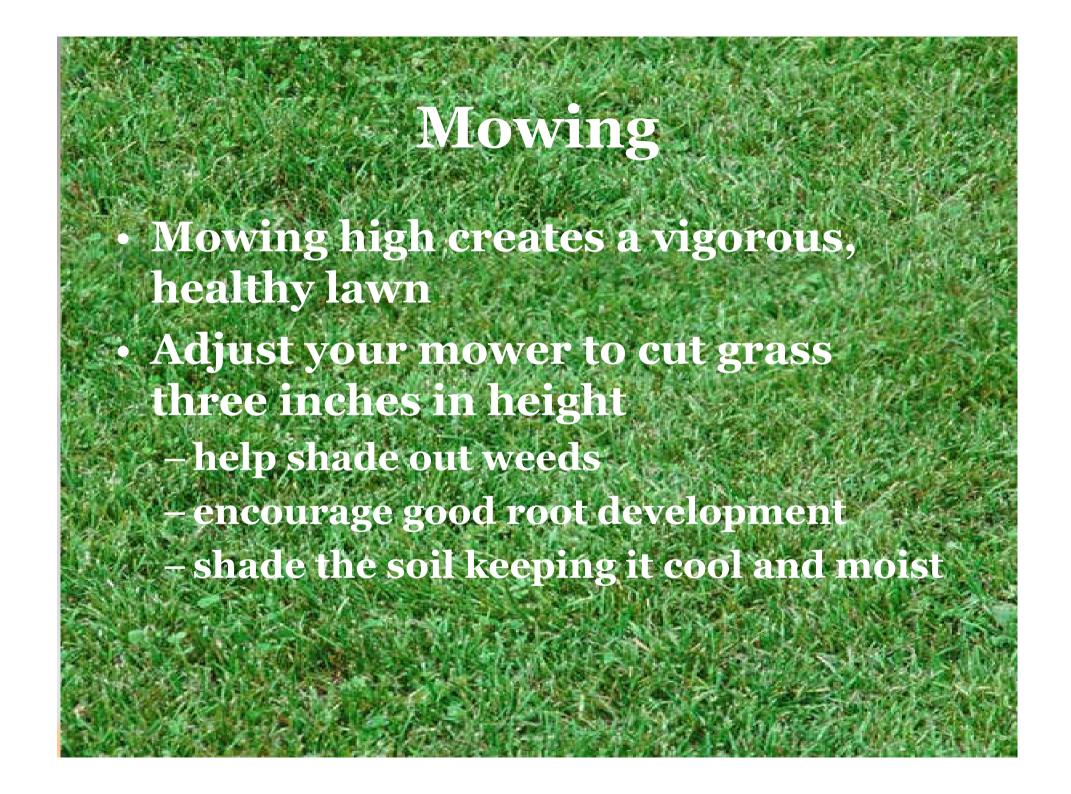
Pesticides and Soil

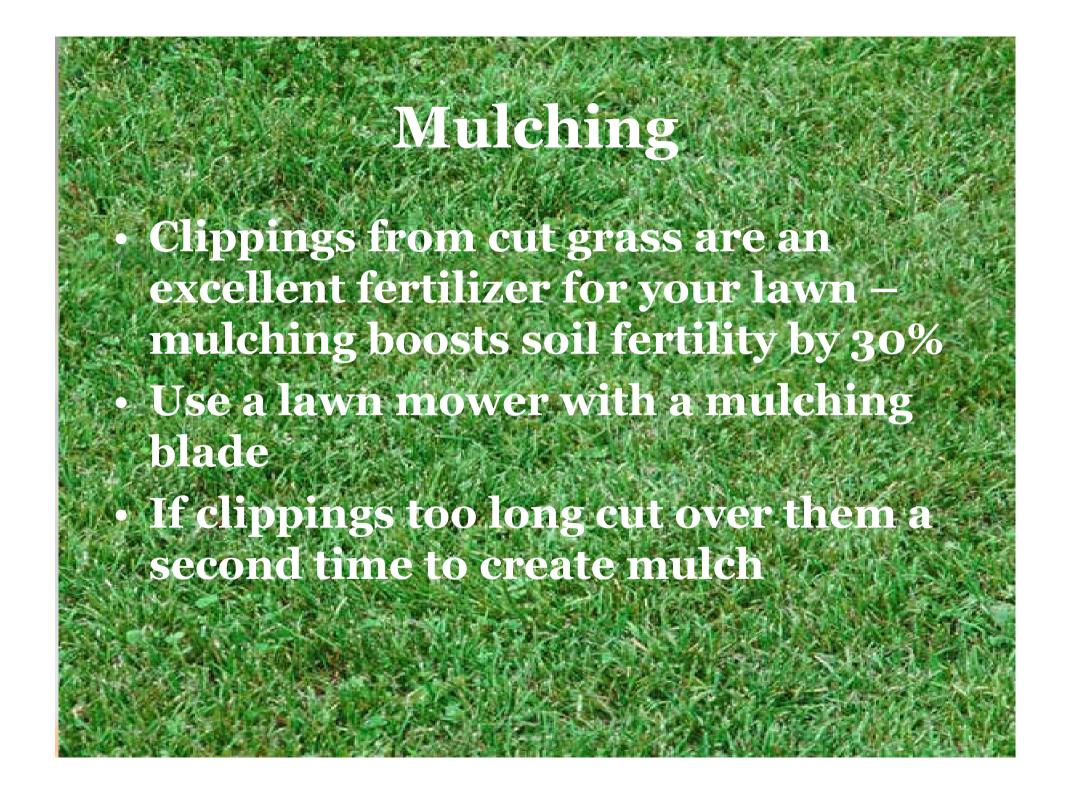
- With repeated exposure, pesticides destroy the vitality and diversity of lawns and soil
- Chemical fertilizers contain no organic matter
- When applied frequently to your lawn, you create a chemical-dependant landscape that is essentially 'addicted,' to chemicals

Is there an environmentally healthy option?

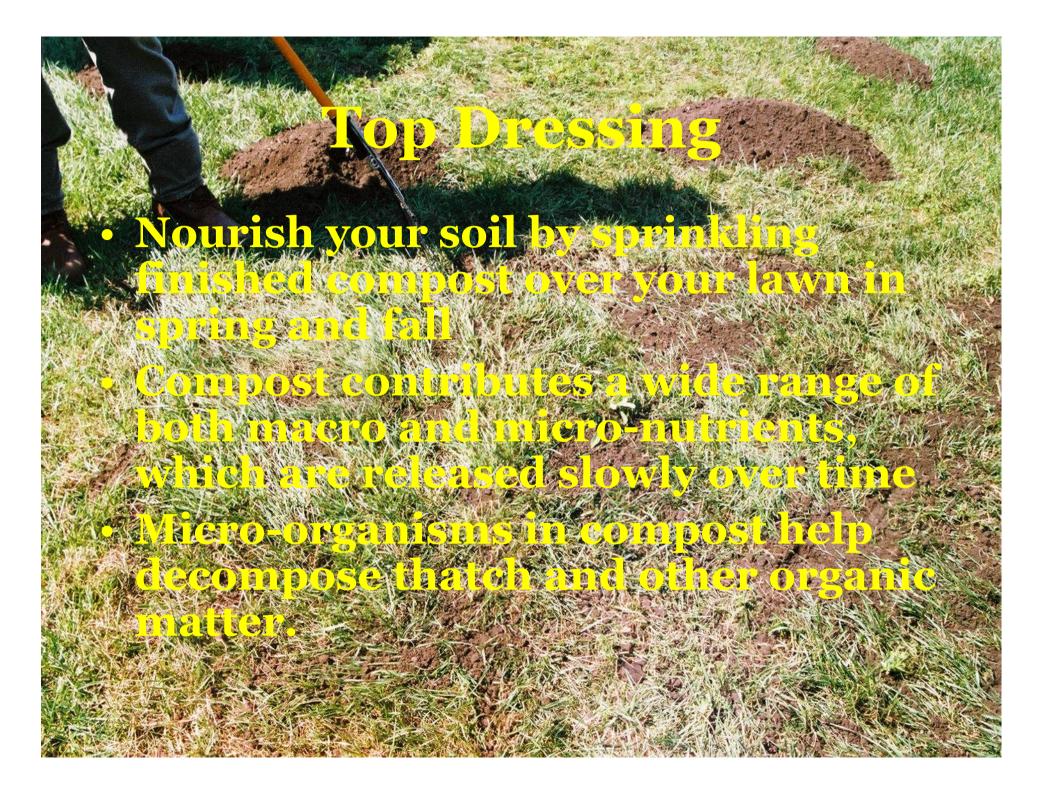


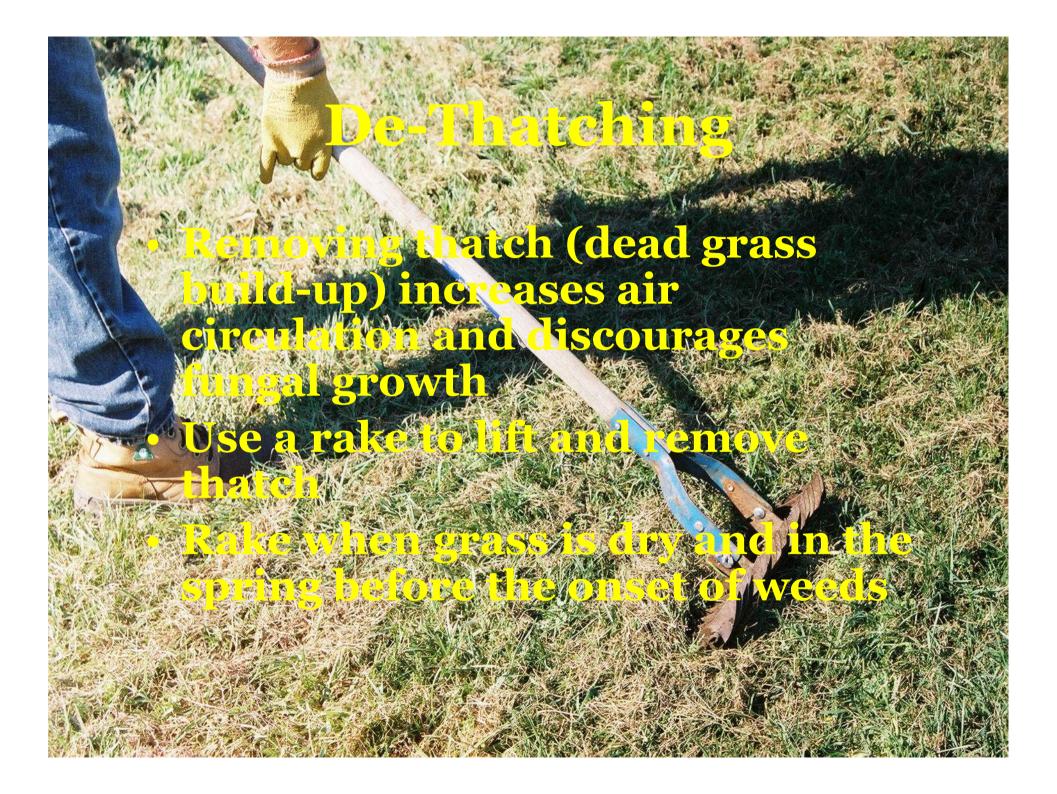






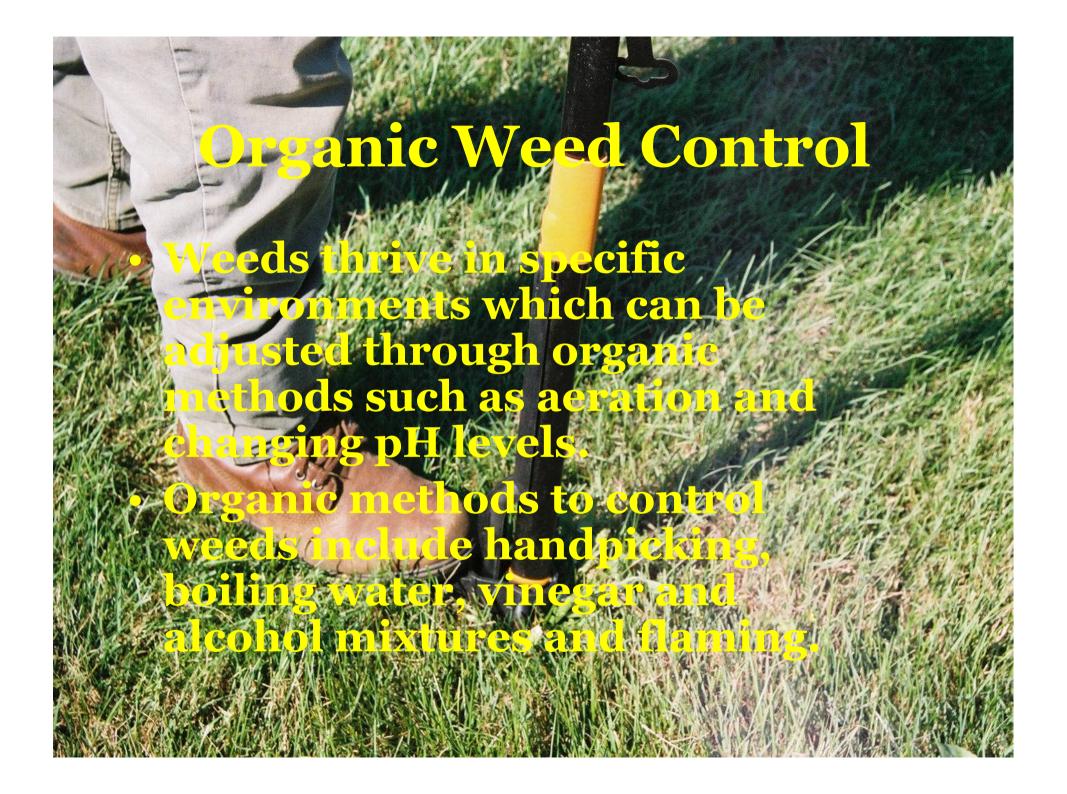












Good Bugs/Bad Bugs Beneficial Insects Vs. Pests

Good Bugs

• Earthworms can naturally aerate your soil



- Ladybugs can feast on harmful pests such as aphids
- Butterflies and other small insects can create improved bio-diversity

Bad Bugs

•Aphids reduce the vigor of new plants and weaken it's health making it susceptible to larger problems

•Grubs are harmful for grass as they destroy the roots of your lawn

Cinch Bug

- Chemical lawn care creates conditions favourable to cinch bug
- Organic lawn care creates conditions unfavourable to cinch bug
- We Guarantee it!

Make a bylaw that works

- Sudbury can join over 120 communities with pesticide bylaws
- Many good low impact products exist
- Learn from other communities
- Many pesticide users favour a bylaw

Conclusion

- Federal and Provincial authorities are spending more time and energy and tax dollars justifying pesticide usage than regulating it.
- Organic landscaping and lawn care embodies a vast array of aesthetic choices, lifestyle changes, and methods aimed towards environmentally healthy living spaces.
- The only choice to protect the health of the children and the rest of us is through municipal bylaws

For fact sheets, links, referrals to 100% organic lawncare and landscapers, membership information and more

visit

www.organiclandscape.org

Acknowledgements







