Hennepin County Environmental Services
612-348-3777
www.hennepin.us
Hennepin County provides a variety of information on managing your yard in an earth-friendly way. Information is available on topics ranging from composting to the proper disposal of fertilizers and weed killers.

– Eco-Yard Demonstration Site (see Visit the Eco-Yard, pg 1) and educational programs
– Drop-off Sites for household hazardous waste and recycling, www.hennepin.us, Key Word Search: A to Z or Facilities

U of M – Extension Service of Hennepin County
612-596-2110
www.extension.umn.edu
The Extension Service provides education outreach for the University of Minnesota, delivering education programs on a variety of topics, including yard and garden information.

– Hennepin County Master Gardener Hotline, 612-596-2118
  www.hcmg.umn.edu
– Yard and Garden Line, 612-624-4771
– INFO-U Hotline, 612-624-2200
– Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Services
  www.sustland.umn.edu
SULIS provides sustainable landscape information to the public and to the horticulture/landscape industry, from planning to maintenance.
BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

Ornamental Grasses for Cold Climates.

Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality
Henderson, Carol; Dindorf, Carolyn; and Rozumalski, Fred. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants.

Native Plants for Northern Gardens
Clean air landscaping is an approach that uses innovative landscape design and maintenance to minimize air pollution. Clean Air Minnesota, a program of the Minnesota Environmental Initiative, is encouraging individuals, businesses and organizations to reduce ground-level ozone (smog) through landscape solutions. Lawn mowing, trimming and leaf blowing are big contributors to ozone pollution in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. These common landscape maintenance practices typically result in high emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which combine with nitrogen oxides, sunlight and heat to cause smog. Emissions are especially high from older, gas-powered yard care equipment – particularly from two-cycle (gas/oil mix) mowers. Old gas cans lacking spillproof spouts are also a problem. You can make a difference by implementing these practices.

For more information on improving our air quality through modified landscaping practices, see www.cleanairminnesota.org

Sign up to receive Air Pollution Alerts at http://aqi.pca.state.mn.us/hourly/. These e-mail messages let you know when air pollution poses a health threat.

- Do not use a gas mower, trimmer, or leaf blower on very hot days or on Air Pollution Alert days
- Mow or trim less frequently, in general, and keep equipment well-maintained
- Convert some turf to ‘no-mow’ vegetation, such as native grasses and wildflowers
- Replace your old gas can with a new, no-spill model
- Replace your 2-cycle mower with a 4-cycle gas mower, OR
- Replace your gas mower with an electric or reel-to-reel (push) mower
- Never burn yard waste; compost it in your backyard, use your yard waste pick-up service or drop it off at a compost site
- Talk to neighbors and friends about changing their landscaping and yard care practices

Hennepin County is a founding partner in Clean Air Minnesota.
EARTH FRIENDLY HOME LANDSCAPING

NATIVE PLANTS AND GRASS CLIPPINGS LEFT ON THE LAWN REDUCE THE NEED FOR FERTILIZER.

A DIVERSITY OF NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, AND FLOWERS CREATES BUTTERFLY AND BIRD HABITAT.

RAINWATER GARDENS CAPTURE EXCESS WATER FROM ROOF AND SIDEWALK RUNOFF.

TREES AND SHRUBS CREATE A NATURAL PRIVACY FENCE

TREES SHADE THE HOUSE AND KEEP IT COOLER DURING HOT SUMMER DAYS

COMPOST BIN

POROUS PAVER BLOCK DRIVEWAY AND STONE WALKWAYS

Hennepin County Environmental Services
612-348-3RRR (3777): For information about REDUCING, REUSING & RECYCLING for residents and businesses
www.hennepin.us Key Word Search: Eco-Yard