



# HEALTHY YARDS

Most of us love the beautiful environment of our town.

Yet, without meaning to, many of us have adopted landscaping habits that harm our environment and our health.

Luckily it isn't hard to change to healthier landscaping practices. Here are some important steps you can take.

Visit our website and get all the information you need to create beautiful healthy yards

Contact us to Learn how to participate in the Bedford Pollinator Pathway Project  
[info@healthyyards.org](mailto:info@healthyyards.org)



## Invite Pollinators

Help butterflies, bees and the birds with healthier yards. Visit our website and learn what to plant to invite pollinators and birds into your yard.



## Love Leaves

Fallen leaves are good for your yard. They protect and nurture the soil. Don't blow, but mulch and mow! Visit our website and learn all about leaf mowing and mulching.



## Plant Wisely

With the right plants you will use less water, less toxins and save money. There are plenty of choices. Visit our website, so we can help you with finding the right plants.



## Avoid Pesticides

Pesticides are harmful. Healthy yards don't need pesticides. Visit our website to find out how to obtain a beautiful yard without the use of pesticides.



## Go Electric

Gasoline powered landscaping equipment is a serious cause of air pollution. Electric machines are cleaner and healthier. Visit our website to learn more.



## Talk To Your Landscaper

Let your landscaper know you want a healthier yard. Direct your landscaper to our website, where we explain professional sustainable landscaping practices.

[visit:www.healthyyards.org](http://www.healthyyards.org)



The annual ritual of raking, blowing, piling, bagging, and trucking leaves out of residential neighborhoods costs time and money.

It also robs the yards, and your lawn, of rich, natural compost.

The two stroke gasoline engine blowers produce a concerning amount of toxic pollutant.

That is why our town promotes the use of battery operated leaf-blowers and the practice of mow-mulching

These alternatives are effective and save you money.

For more information about how to manage your fall leaves in a sustainable way, visit [www.leaveleavesalone.org](http://www.leaveleavesalone.org)



### Mow the leaves

Mulch mowing is the practice of chopping leaves that have fallen on your lawn into pieces. Just mowing over them with a lawnmower will do the job. Mulch mowing the leaves will enrich the topsoil, and decrease the need for additional fertilizers. It also improves drainage and growing conditions, allowing the turf grass roots to grow deeper into the soil.



### Mulch the Leaves

Top gardeners and Cornell Cooperative Extension agree: chopped leaves make the best mulch. You can chop your own leaves with a mower or a leaf shredder and use them as winter protection around shrubs and perennials, or keep them to mulch your garden in spring. Mulch protects roots from cold and heat, it retains moisture and adds nutrients to the soil.



### Compost the Leaves

No need to waste time and effort to remove leaves from your property. If you don't use the leaves as mulch, you can compost them. Composting is the process of turning organic matter into soil. Once the leaves have decomposed, you can add the nutrient rich soil to your garden where it will help your plants grow, and it enhances the structure of your garden soil.

[www.LeaveLeavesAlone.org](http://www.LeaveLeavesAlone.org)