

I took the pesticide-free pledge!

To make my lawn a pesticide-free safe home for the Gnomes.

Please keep this page to remember your pledge and to review the healthy lawn checklist.

To protect my family, pets, wildlife and water, I pledge:

- My lawn is already pesticide-free** (get a free lawn sign)
- Stop using pesticides, including weed-and-feed** (get a free lawn sign)
- Reduce my use of pesticides, including weed-and-feed.** (Learn how to reduce pesticide use by checking out the Healthy Lawn Campaign website references or by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County at 716-652-5400 x 150)

The use of the sign is on the honor system, and we do not document or monitor the materials you use. One sign per household.

Overuse and misuse of garden chemicals can be harmful to humans, pets, wildlife and waterbodies. Collectively, you control about 900,000 acres of lawn in New York alone - 75% of the managed turf in the state. The good news is there are many ways to care for your lawn that avoid putting family and neighbors at risk. Pledge to eliminate pesticides in your lawn including insecticides, herbicides (weed-killers, "weed and feed"), fungicides and other chemical pesticides and receive a free lawn sign to let your neighbors know that your lawn is healthy and safe.



Checklist for a healthy lawn:

- I mow my grass to no less than 3 inches. Taller grass outcompetes weeds, better withstands drought and is more resistant to pests and diseases.
- I water my lawn less often and for a longer period of time when I do water; only using 1 inch of water per week. Water penetrates deeper into the soil and encourages roots to grow deep.
- I fertilize in the fall with organic fertilizer. Applying fertilizer after top growth has stopped strengthens roots. Deep roots produce stronger plants that out-compete weeds. Naturally derived organic fertilizers such as compost and compost tea promote better soil health.
- I aerate the soil in late summer. Aeration helps air, water and nutrients penetrate the lawn surface, removes thatch and improves root growth.
- I plant a variety of grasses. Grass mixtures grow better in different sun, shade and traffic conditions.

By taking action and returning the pledge form, you may also receive periodic communication from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County about lawn and garden best practices and your follow through on the pledge. Information you provide will be kept confidential.



Home for the Gnomes pesticide-free lawn campaign is part of the Healthy Lawns Initiative sponsored by the Erie County Environmental Management Council in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County. For more information please visit: ERIE.GOV/HEALTHYLAWNS

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Erie County

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities; and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Pesticide-Free Lawn Pledge Form

Please fill out and bring this page to a sign pickup site to receive your free lawn sign.

Pledge Level:

- My lawn is already pesticide-free** (free lawn sign)
- I pledge to stop using pesticides, including weed-and-feed** (free lawn sign)
- I pledge to reduce my use of pesticides, including weed & feed.** (Learn how to reduce pesticide use by checking out the Healthy Lawn Campaign website references or by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County at 716-652-5400 x 150)

Homeowner: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Date: _____

Home for the Gnome lawn sign pickup locations:

(Pickup sites have special operating conditions during COVID-19: please call the site before picking up your sign. Bring a copy of this page with you to the pickup site.)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Erie County
21 South Grove St, East Aurora NY 14052
(716) 642-5400

Signs available for pickup during Master Gardener Hotline hours M, W, F – 9 AM to Noon

Reinstein Woods Visitor Center
93 Honorine Dr, Depew NY 14043
(716) 683-5959

Signs are standing by the flower sculpture in the parking lot.

University Heights Tool Library
5 West Northrup Place; Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 510-1745

Current hours at: <http://www.thetoollibrary.org/borrow/>
Curbside pickup only – please call ahead to schedule pickup time.

Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District
50 Commerce Way, East Aurora, NY 14052
(716) 652-8480 ext. 5

M – F, 8 AM to 4 PM
Curbside pickup only – please call ahead to schedule pickup time.

