

## **\*The Environmental Benefits That Your Lawn Provides:**

Besides providing a foundation for the family to play, the lawn plays an important role in the urban environment. In fact, the healthier the lawn the better it can protect the environment. Lawns reduce run-off, minimize erosion, clean the air, neutralize pollutants and absorb rainwater.

- **Prevents soil erosion and stabilizes dust.** Lawns protect the soil from wind and water erosion. A healthy Lawn stabilizes the soil with its roots. The roots “knot” the soil together preventing the movement of soil. A dense Lawn also reduces dust because the soil particles are not able to move with the wind. This ground cover provides a place for airborne dust to settle. Lawns trap as much as 12 million tons of dust a year.
- **Rainwater Absorption.** Lawns help reduce runoff and prevent soil erosion, capturing and filtering rainwater to recharge our groundwater supplies. Grass leaves and stems cover the soil and intercept raindrops as they fall and interfere with runoff flow, slowing it to the point where soil particles have a chance to soak it in. In fact, water run-off from Lawns is rare because the average 10,000 square foot Lawn can absorb more than 6,000 gallons of water from a rainfall event.
- **Reduces glare and noise.** Since a Lawn is a non-reflective surface, it acts as a screen to soften glare from the sun. Lawns, trees and shrubs also have the ability to absorb sound, while hard surfaces like streets will reflect sound. Lawns and other green plants can reduce noise levels by 20-30%.
- **Natural air cleaner.** Lawns take in carbon dioxide and break it down into oxygen and carbon. The Lawn outside of your home can provide most of the oxygen you breathe. In fact, a 50 foot by 50 foot area will provide enough oxygen for a family of four, day after day. Lawns also take in other gases. An acre of Lawn will absorb hundreds of pounds of sulfur dioxide per year. The haze created by these pollutants can reduce the sunlight by as much as 15%.
- **Cools the environment.** Lawns provide a substantial cooling effect to the environment. Eight average sized Lawns will have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air conditioning compared to the average 4 ton home air conditioner. Summer air temperatures above a Lawn will be up to 30° cooler than above a paved area.
- **Improves and restores the soil.** Lawns are a perennial plant which means part of the root structure dies off during the winter and grows back the following spring. The dead roots of the plant breakdown providing organic matter to the soil. The breakdown of clippings from regular mowing also adds organic matter. Over time, organic matter improves the quality of the soil making it more fertile and better able to filter air and water.