



TENNESSEE SMART YARDS

36"

RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE



- Determine your family's needs for your yard. Value: 2 inches
- Assess your yard's site conditions to determine the types of plants most suited. Value: 2 inches
- Group plants according to maintenance needs. Value: 2 inches
- Apply energy efficient landscaping strategies. Value: 1 inch
- Remove or avoid using invasive exotic plants. Value: 1 inch
- Preserve existing vegetation, especially trees, during home construction by maintaining a "do not disturb" barrier under the dripline of trees. Value: 1 inch
- Manage turfgrass appropriately. Value: 2 inches

35"

34"

33"

32"

31"

30"

29"

28"

27"

26"

25"

24"

23"

22"

21"

20"

19"

18"

17"

16"

15"

14"

13"

12"

11"

10"

9"

8"

7"

6"

5"

4"

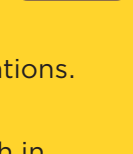
3"

2"

1"

START

MANAGE SOILS & MULCH



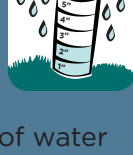
- Soil test using a certified lab. Value: 2 inches
- Follow soil test recommendations. Value: 2 inches
- Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch in plant beds and over tree and shrubs roots. Leave at least 2 inches of space between the mulch and the plant's trunk or stem. Value: 2 inches
- Use organic pine straw, pine bark, leaves, or hardwood mulch. Value: 1 inch

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



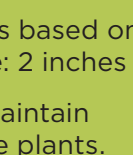
- Recycle grass clippings by leaving on lawn. Value: 1 inch
- Create and maintain a compost pile that can include grass clippings, leaves, pruned plant parts, kitchen scraps. (no meat or dairy) Value: 1 inch
- Use landscape waste (tree trimmings, fallen leaves, pine needles) on site. Value: 1 inch
- Incorporate salvaged materials into landscaping (e.g., newspaper in gardens to suppress weed growth). Value: 1 inch

WATER EFFICIENTLY



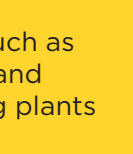
- Place rain gauge in your yard. Value: 2 inches
- Monitor plants for water needs. Apply about one inch of water per week, taking into consideration rainfall amounts. Value: 2 inches
- Prioritize water use during extended dry periods. (High priority plants may include those newly installed, valued perennials, or difficult-to-replace woody species.) Value: 1 inch

USE FERTILIZER APPROPRIATELY



- Follow fertilizer timing and formulation recommendations based on square footage of lawn. Value: 2 inches
- Fertilize only as needed to maintain health of lawns and landscape plants. Value: 2 inches
- Maintain soil pH in the recommended range. Value: 2 inches

MANAGE YARD PESTS



- Identify and manage pests by checking landscape regularly. Value: 2 inches
- Use mechanical and cultural approaches to pest control such as pruning affected areas and hand removing insects and keeping plants healthy. Value: 1 inch
- Learn about and use beneficial insects to control pests. Value: 1 inch
- Spot treat only affected areas, avoiding routine applications of pesticides. Value: 1 inch
- When needed, use pesticides that are environmentally-friendly such as horticultural oils, Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) and insecticidal soaps. Value: 1 inch

REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF & POLLUTANTS



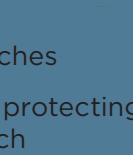
- Drain downspouts onto lawn or garden. Value: 2 inches
- Construct and maintain a rain garden to catch and filter stormwater. Value: 2 inches
- Use permeable surfaces for hardscape areas such as driveways, walkways, or patios. Value: 2 inches
- Collect rooftop runoff in rain barrels for future use. Value: 2 inches
- Minimize exposed soils in lawns and gardens. Value: 1 inch
- Sweep grass clippings, fertilizer, and/or loose soil off of hard surfaces to lawn. Value: 1 inch
- Wash your car on the lawn or at the car wash. Value: 1 inch
- Clean up oil and other car fluid spills and leaks from driveway. Value: 1 inch
- Keep pet waste from entering stormwater system. Value: 1 inch
- Properly discard kitchen grease ("can the grease"). Value: 1 inch
- Properly store and dispose of household hazardous waste. Value: 1 inch
- Provide a covered containment system for household waste and transport only under cover. Value: 1 inch

PROVIDE FOR WILDLIFE



- Identify wildlife you want to retain and/or attract to your landscape and research their preferred habitat. Value: 2 inches
- Install plants that will support habitat needs of desired wildlife. Value: 2 inches
- Provide water source such as pond or bird bath. Value: 2 inches
- Encourage wildlife by installing bat houses, bird houses, bird feeders, etc. Value: 1 inch

PROTECT WATER'S EDGE



- Preserve or plant vegetation along water's edge to absorb pollutants. Value: 2 inches
- Learn more about programs protecting area water bodies. Value: 1 inch
- Create "no mow, no fertilizer, no pesticide" zone along water bodies. Value: 1 inch
- Remove invasive plants that dominate water's edge and replace with native plants. Seek professional advice if you have any questions about plant removal. Value: 2 inches

Use this yardstick to track your progress towards creating a "Tennessee Yard Done Right" by marking off completed actions. Once you have achieved 36 inches (a Tennessee "Smart" Yard), mail the completed yardstick to:

Tennessee Water Resources Research Center
Attn: Ruth Anne
311 Conference Center Building
Knoxville, TN 37996

You will receive from us your completed yardstick, a new yardstick to begin tracking additional actions you've completed, and a certificate of recognition of your great work creating a "Tennessee Yard Done Right."

Name: _____

May we feature you as a success story?

- Yes, it is OK to feature me on the Tennessee Smart Yards web site, in promotional materials and in media releases.
- No, do not feature me or my landscape in any promotional materials or media releases.

<http://tnyards.utk.edu>