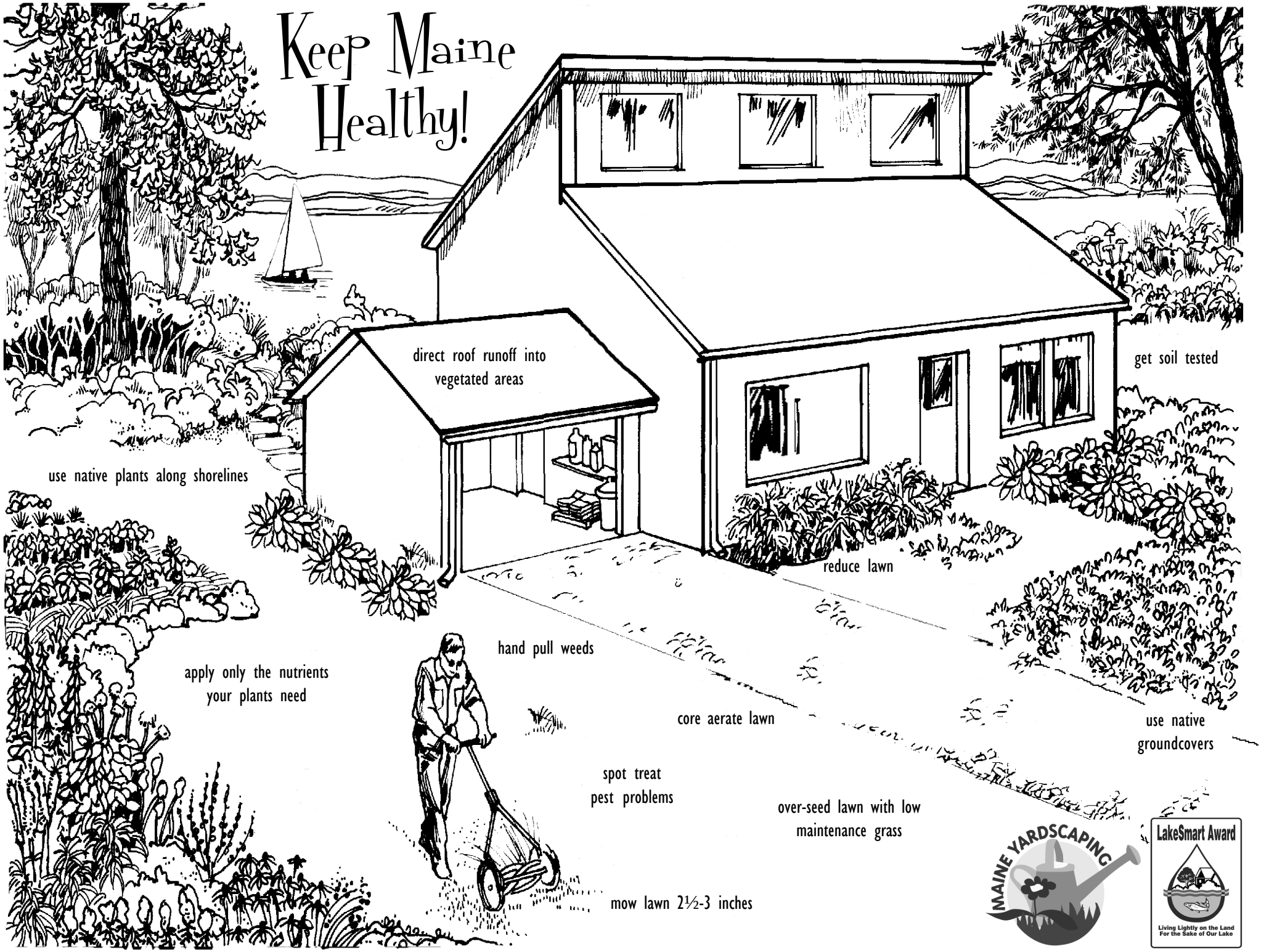
Keep Maine Healthy!



TIPS for a healthier Maine

for any YARD

- Get a SOIL TEST to decide what nutrients your plants and lawn need. Don't overfeed.
- Choose the RIGHT PLANT. Evaluate sun, water, pests, space & soil's pH.
- Avoid "INVASIVE non-native" plants.
- Welcome WILDLIFE by planting in layers: trees, shrubs, groundcovers.
- MOW frequently to a 2½-3 inch height. Leave clippings & keep mower blade sharp.
- WATER lawn deeply, infrequently & during the early morning hours.
- Control THATCH & reduce soil COMPACTION by core aerating your lawn.
- Monitor, identify & evaluate PESTS. A few weeds or insects are inevitable and have little effect.
- Use PESTICIDES only as a last resort. Spot treat pest problems.

LakeSmart

Look for this sign awarded to homeowners who manage their property to protect lake water.

LakeSmart Award

Living Lightly on the Land For the Sake of Our Lake

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
207-287-3901
infodep@maine.gov
www.mainedep.com

YardScaping

Learn about lawns and landscapes that need less pesticides, fertilizer and water.

MAINE YARDSCAPING

YardScaping
207-287-2731
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for LAKE properties

- Plant NATIVE trees, shrubs, ground cover to create "buffers" (natural filters) along shore-lines & downhill of stormwater runoff.
- Do not rake up the "DUFF" - nature's mulch (twigs, needles & leaves that fall between the plants in the buffer).
- STABILIZE ditches along road, driveway & parking area with grasses and if necessary rock.
- Minimize IMPERVIOUS surfaces such as pavement, patios, decks, roofs, compacted gravel & compacted lawns. Direct all runoff from impervious areas to a buffer.
- Maintain your SEPTIC SYSTEM by pumping every 3-5 years, keep woody plants from growing in leach field & avoid overloading the septic system.
- Plant or mulch any areas that have BARE SOIL.
- Design winding PATHWAYS that divert runoff into a buffer.