YardScaping – QUICK FACTS

Three Reasons to Yardscape:

- **Water pollution.** Heavy rains or watering can wash away lawn fertilizers and pesticides and impact water quality. They can end up in bays, rivers, lakes and groundwater—our drinking water source.

- **People’s health.** We do not know exactly the long-term effects of pesticide use or exposure. Medical experts believe we should avoid using them unnecessarily. Children, pregnant/nursing women and seniors should especially avoid exposure.

- **Air pollution.** Reducing your lawn size to just what you really need is YardScaping 101. Using a power mower consumes fossil fuels and causes air pollution. A lawnmower pollutes as much in one hour as a car driving 350 miles.

Yard Care Pesticides Purchased in Maine in 2011:
5.7 million pounds (more than 7x increase since 1995)

Yard Care Pesticides Found in Casco Bay from 2001–15:
- Diazinon
- Dicamba
- MCPP
- MCPA
- 2,4-D
- Clopyralid
- Bifenthrin
- Cypermethrin
- Permethrin
- Sumithrin
- Propiconazole

Acres of Lawn in the U.S.:
40 million

Amount of Grass Clippings 1/2 Acre Produces Annually:
3 tons

Time One Person Spends Mowing Annually:
40 hours (a typical work week)

Soil Test Kit:
U-Maine Soil Lab, 207-581-3591, $12 - $15
http://anlab.umesci.maine.edu/soillab_files/soillkts/Nreq.htm

Beneficial Wildlife & Insects:
Bats, bees, wasps, birds, earthworms, ladybugs, lacewings, dragonflies, spiders, toads & ants, etc.

Grass That Requires the Most Nitrogen Fertilizer:
Improved Kentucky bluegrass (which happens to be the most commercially available seed)