

## **Does it cost to have a lawn?**

In most cases a lawn comes with a house. Some people are “lawn people” - most are not. They end up with a lawn not by choice but because it came with the house. Many people not only spend more money than necessary to maintain a lawn but with time they kill the lawn with kindness. The result is a short lived lawn and more money to redo a lawn that has been killed by improper management.

The typical homeowner waters and fertilizes his/her lawn too much. Chemicals are used to control pests that do not exist. Or at best a guessing game is played that goes something like this: “It may be a fungus so I’ll buy a fungicide.” When the fungicide does not provide satisfactory results the next thought might be, “Oh, it must be mole crickets. I’ve heard mole crickets are a problem here and I saw some flying around outdoor lights. So I’ll buy an insecticide to kill the mole crickets.” When this does not work, the homeowner decides to apply more fertilizer to an already over fertilized yard, more water, etc. This scenario may happen repeatedly without the homeowner realizing the true cause for the problem.

It does cost to have a lawn. But I’m convinced most homeowners can significantly reduce dollars spent and achieve an improved and longer lasting lawn by learning how to correctly maintain a Florida lawn.

This is exactly what I plan to teach at the Eco-Nomic Living Expo on Saturday, February 21. The title for my seminar is “Green Lawn/Green Pocketbook Can Happen.”

The Eco-Nomic Living Expo is a big event that will take place at Northwest Florida State College from 9 am – 2 pm in Niceville. My seminar is only a small part of the Expo.

Locally and nationally known speakers will provide seminars on money management, green living and energy and water conservation. Some seminar topics include edible landscapes, alternative fuels, geothermal technology and credit scores and reports. Special guests include Danny Lipford and Deborah Owens. Lipford is the TV Host of Emmy®-nominated Today’s Homeowner® and home expert for The Weather Channel. Owens is host of “Real Money Radio” and author of several books. Owens’ topic “Nickel and Dime Your Way to Wealth” is also the title of one of her books. Lipford is speaking on “Going Green on a Budget.”

The Expo will feature exhibitors, seminars and kid’s activities (ages 5-12).

Join us on Feb. 21 for lots of fun, learning and winning! It’s free and includes door prizes, including money! For more details, visit [www.okaloosasaves.org](http://www.okaloosasaves.org).

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa County, February 5, 2009