

# Lake Smart Yard Maintenance Checklist

Simple steps to protect our lake—one yard at a time.

## Mowing & Lawn Care

- **Raise the Blade:** Set mower blades 3 inches or higher. Taller grass grows deeper roots that hold soil and filter stormwater.
- **Mow Less, Relax More:** Let grass reach 4 inches before cutting. (Search “No Mow May in NH” — it’s a real thing!)
- **Leave the Clippings:** Skip bagging. Grass clippings return nutrients naturally and keep fertilizers out of the lake.
- **Create “No-Mow” Zones:** Convert lakeside or low-use areas into meadows for wildlife and stormwater infiltration.



## Gardening & Landscaping

- **Go Native:** Plant native species in the 50 ft buffer that thrive without fertilizers or constant watering.
- **Water Wisely:** Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses instead of sprinklers to save water and cut runoff.
- **Maintain a Natural Buffer:** Keep at least 50 feet of native vegetation between irrigated areas and the lake.
- **Do a Rainy-Day Test:** Watch where stormwater and sediment flows and stabilize erosion with plantings or mulch.



## Nutrient & Waste Management

- **Check the Label:** Always choose slow-release fertilizer with “0” phosphorus.
- **Compost Smart:** Use compost made from leaves or yard waste — skip anything that might contain sludge or “biosolids.”
- **Test Your Soil:** Before applying anything, test your soil to see what nutrients it truly needs — if any.
- **Maintain Gravel Driveway:** No ruts; crown with 3/4” gravel; use water bars or razors to keep sediment out of the lake.
- **Scoop the Poop:** Pet waste belongs in the trash, not the lakefront.
- **Keep Yard Waste Out of the Lake:** Never rake or blow leaves or clippings into the water.
- **Service Your Septic:** Have a professional inspect your system every 1–3 years.



## Household & Pest Management

- **Be Pest-Smart:** Use traps or beneficial insects before turning to chemical pesticides.
- **Wash Cars on the Grass:** Better yet, use a local car wash—they recycle and treat their water.
- **Store Chemicals Safely:** Keep fertilizers, pesticides, and cleaners covered, never outside.
- **Check for Leaks:** Regularly inspect cars and boats for oil or fuel leaks.



Tip: Share this checklist with friends and neighbors! Every Lake Smart yard adds up to cleaner water, happier wildlife, and a more beautiful shoreline for all. LKWA Boots On the Ground is available for free, no-judgment advice if you need it.



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