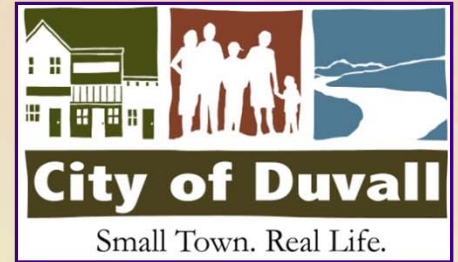


Natural Yard Care



Make space for Wildlife

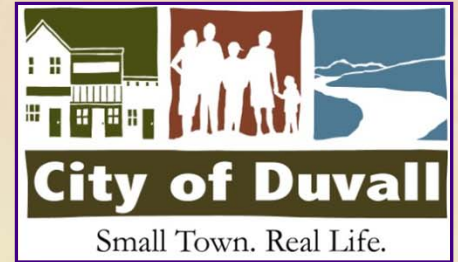
You can invite birds, butterflies, and other wildlife into your yard, protect shorelines and salmon, and make a more attractive landscape:



- Plant trees and use native plants, especially ones with fruit and flowers.
- Avoid exotic plants or state-designated “noxious weeds”. You can check King County’s website, www.kingcounty.gov/weeds, for more information on noxious weeds.
- Plant in layers (ground cover, shrubs, and trees) so your landscape is like the forest.
- Avoid using pesticides – they can poison birds, beneficial insects, and salmon when rain washes them through storm drains into streams.
- Provide a bird bath or other small water source.
- If space allows, leave dead standing trees and brush piles as homes for wildlife.
- Leave wild “buffer” areas of native plants along ravines, streams, shoreline, and fence lines.

Natural Yard Care cont.

SUMMER



Flower and Vegetable Gardens



- Mulch flower and vegetable beds with compost or grass clippings to conserve water and control weeds.

- Use fabric row covers to keep pests off sensitive vegetables.
- Identify bugs before you spray, squash, or stomp – they may be “good bugs” that eat pests.

Lawns

- Mow regularly and leave the clippings on the lawn.
- Keep mower blades sharp to reduce lawn damage and brown tips.
- Consider saving water by letting some areas (ones that don't get heavy traffic) go brown and dormant until fall.

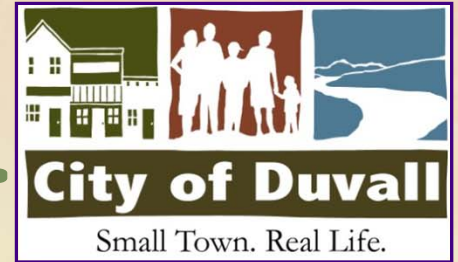
Watering

- Start and re-check watering systems, and adjust for weather. Don't water when it rains.
- Water lawns one inch per week, or let go brown and dormant (but water enough to moisten root zone once a month).
- Water at dawn or in evening to reduce evaporation.

Composting

- Harvest compost from your bin. Throw any uncomposted sticks or stalks back in for another cycle.
- Add yard debris to compost pile; water pile to keep moist. Place pile in shade or cover to hold moisture.

Natural Yard Care cont.



Want to Know More:

Natural Yard Care information (Department of Ecology):

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/organics.html>

Washington State University Master Gardener Information:

206.296.3440,

<http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/gardening.html>

Integrated Pest Management:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/upest or

<http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense>

Native Plant Information:

<http://gardening.wsu.edu/nwnative/>

City of Duvall: <http://www.duvallwa.gov/departments/publicworks/npdes.html>
or email stormwater@duvallwa.gov