

# LAWNS & GARDENS

Before we know it, the dry season will be upon us and our lawns and gardens will be getting thirsty. This is a great opportunity to have a Salmon Friendly Lawn, and all you have to do is nothing! Don't water your lawn or use chemical herbicides or pesticides in your yard. Let your lawn go brown this summer. It will green up again with the Fall rains.

**HISTORICAL LOW WATER FLOWS  
IN MANY BC WATERSHEDS COULD  
DESTROY SALMON RECOVERY EFFORTS!**

## WORKING TOGETHER

We are all citizens of a watershed. The problems of water quality and quantity must be solved just as they were created; by the combined actions of all citizens who live and work in the watershed.



### Consider alternatives to lawns.

Replace traditional lawns with other groundcovers that work just as well with much less care (and waste). A natural landscape retains more water than a lawn.

### Plant native plants.

Native plants are beautiful and they need less care and attention.

### Redirect Downspouts.

Help the winter rains soak into the ground by directing downspouts out onto lawns and flower beds.

## JOIN THE SALMON FRIENDLY LAWN PROGRAM

Your home lawn and Oceanside streams (home to salmon) are connected. If you use too much water or too many chemicals, you may hurt salmon and other wildlife. Try a natural approach to your lawn. You can have a healthy lawn and be a good neighbour, too!

- Eliminate your use of toxic chemicals and dangerous herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Limit your level of lawn watering (no watering from the tap).
- Practice new and improved methods of lawn care.

## About MVIHES

Founded in 1998, the Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society is dedicated to the recovery of wild Pacific salmon through conservation and restoration of their habitat including watersheds, estuaries and shorelines and to connect people to their landscape through partnerships that focus on field study, education and restoration.

## Partners in Salmon

Funding and support for the Salmon Friendly Lawn program was received from the

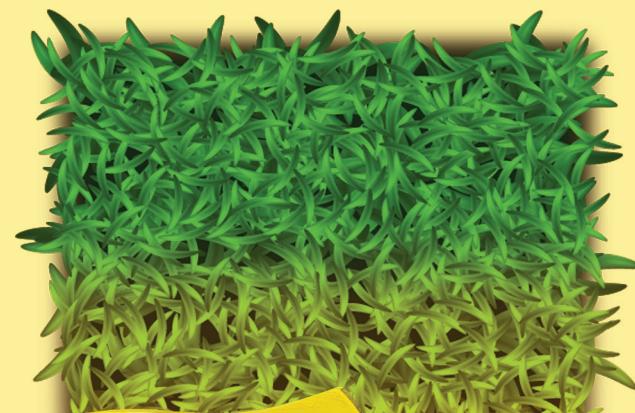
**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND**  
affiliated with the  
**HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION.**  
and the  
**PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION**



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# SALMON FRIENDLY LAWNS



• **brown is the  
new green**  
[www.mvihes.bc.ca](http://www.mvihes.bc.ca)



**MVIHES**  
MID VANCOUVER ISLAND  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY

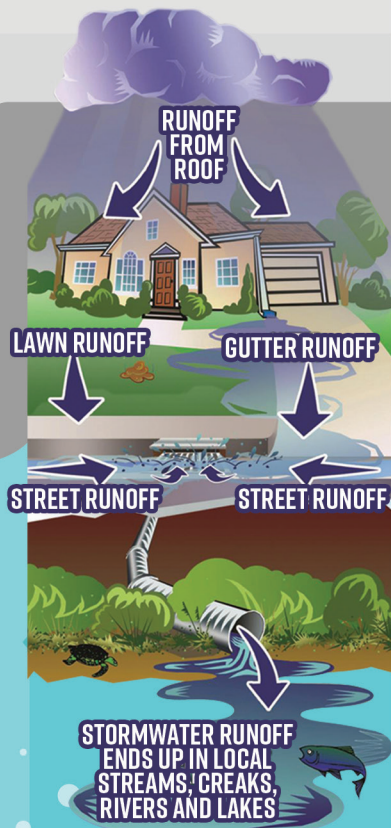




# 40%

OF THE WATER WE USE IN SUMMER  
IS FOR WATERING OUR **LAWNS**

By not watering your lawn you leave more water in the rivers and creeks for juvenile and spawning salmon, when the water is needed the most. Creeks and rivers are fed by groundwater in the summer so the more water left in wells means more water in the creeks and rivers to support salmon.



Chemical herbicides and pesticides are harmful to fish and enter creeks and rivers through stormdrains or directly off the land.

Photo Credit: Courtesy NCDENR

## MVIHES IS PROMOTING SALMON FRIENDLY LAWNS THROUGH A **YELLOW FISH PROGRAM**

Residents who pledge to not water their lawns or use chemical herbicides and pesticides will get a groovy yellow fish sign to show off to the neighbours and help promote the message of conserving water. The sign comes with a decal stating "brown is the new green" which makes having a brown lawn not only a great thing for salmon but states you're a cool trend setter and influencer.



TO TAKE THE  
PLEDGE FOR A YELLOW FISH

Contact us at  
**info@mvihes.bc.ca**

### OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP!

Mow your grass high (5 - 6 cm) and leave the grass clippings. Taller grass means less run-off, and healthier lawns. Healthier lawns are less likely to grow weeds. Aerate your lawn and top-dress with compost to help rainwater penetrate deeper into the roots where it will do the most good and improve water retention.

## COLLECT RAIN WATER

INTERESTED IN GOING  
THE EXTRA MILE?

Rain barrels are a great option for watering trees, shrubs, vegetable and flower gardens to reduce tap water use even further. The City of Parksville offers rebates for purchases of rain barrels. Check out the awesome brochure on rain barrels by Team Water Smart at the Regional District of Nanaimo.

[www.rdn.bc.ca/team-watersmart](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/team-watersmart)  
(250) 954-3070