

## **Conferences by Edith Smeesters**

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### **A Beautiful Lawn *is* Possible without pesticides !**

It is possible to have a lush and resistant lawn with natural products and such techniques as aeration, top-dressing, over-seeding, mowing higher, grass-cycling, etc. Let's be honest: a beautiful, lush lawn requires time and money. Alternatively, you can have a lawn that requires fewer products and less work by introducing "minimal care" species, and respecting nature's laws and biodiversity. Furthermore, you can choose alternative solutions to the traditional lawn, as there are many different ways to landscape around your home.

### **Alternative Solutions for Traditional Lawns**

The « perfect » lawn is an increasingly controversial ideal, as it requires a great deal of water and fertilizers, not to mention pesticides, in order to artificially maintain a uniform carpet of grass. What about alternative solutions? "Minimal care" lawns require very little attention, except regular mowing. There are dozens of perennial ground covers that are resistant to drought and pests. Most types of lawns do better in the sun, but a few tolerate some shade. Some are perfect for dry or cool areas. You will be shown various alternative solutions, such as flowering meadows, mulch, inert materials, naturalization, xeriscaping, etc.

### **Backyard composting**

Composting is simple and fascinating. You just need some basics and a little bit of experience to succeed. This conference will tell you all about it: what to compost and not, how to prevent problems, how to handle all those leaves in the fall and the grass clippings in summer, compost boxes, etc.

### **Organic Solutions for Horticulture**

You can have beautiful landscapes without chemicals. Prevention is the keyword: grow the right plant in the right place and use resistant varieties. As a last resort you can use low impact pesticides but there are much more friends than enemies in our gardens.