



# ALTERNATIVES

On April 22, 2009 the Ministry of the Environment banned the use of pesticides for cosmetic-use and banned over 250 brands of pesticides from the market. Cosmetic meaning; products that serve an esthetic purpose, rather than a useful purpose. With the implementation of this ban, homeowners are limited to the use of certain pesticides. There is no better time to learn GREENER ALTERNATIVES to healthy lawns & gardens than now – without the use of pesticides!



**Aerate** – remove plugs of dirt to allow air, water and nutrients to reach roots



**Overseed** – keep your lawn thick & healthy by regularly adding grass seed. Try mixing the grass seed with compost!



**Mow smart** – let grass grow to 6-8 cm before cutting. Cutting your lawn too short stresses the grass



**Natural feed** – leave grassclippings on the lawn after you mow, they make ideal **FREE** fertilizer!

**It's called GRASSCYCLING!!!**



**Water wisely** – lawns only need 2.5 cm of water/week. Too much water starves the soil of oxygen and invites disease. **Tip!** Early morning is the best time to water!



**Pluck by hand** – pluck weeds by hand or by a hand weeding tool. Add compost to the weeded areas!



**Mulching** – add mulch to garden beds, around plants and between vegetable rows to prevent weeds from seeding. Mulch also provides moisture and adds nutrients



**Hand pick pests** – pluck pests and squish them before they can start to multiply.



**Copper barriers** – copper strips in your garden or flower beds deter slugs & snails.



**Diatomaceous earth** – fossilized shells with sharp edges will deter caterpillar, slugs & snails



**Water spraying** – strong blasts of water can knock off insects (aphids and spider mites) from plants



**Cleaning** – keep gardens clean and free of dead or diseased plants and keep gardening tools clean & sharp!