

For immediate release
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Spring Lawn Care Workshop to be Offered May 6

The calendar says it's spring, and the grass is turning that green we longed for all winter. Before we know it, it will be time to yell at the kids, "Hey, get the mower out!"

A workshop on spring lawn care will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at the Youth Shelter off of C Avenue on the east shore of Union Grove Lake, rural Gladbrook. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last approximately two hours.

Wayne Petersen, Urban Conservationist for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Division of Soil Conservation, will discuss a number of spring lawn care topics including soil quality, soil testing, fertilizing and its impact on algal blooms, and composting lawn clippings.

Those attending are encouraged to have soil testing completed on their yards prior to the workshop. Iowa State University soil sampling instructions and containers are available at the Tama County Extension Service, 203 W. High, Toledo or at most other county Extension locations. Having these soil samples tested for organic matter will also help Petersen to interpret an individual's soil test results.

Attendees are also encouraged to complete a rainwater audit for their yards prior to arriving. This audit may be found at http://www.jcswcd.org/rainwater_audit/rain-audit.html

Neither the soil testing nor the rainwater audit are required in order to attend.

There will be no fee for this workshop. It is being sponsored by the Union Grove Lake Watershed Project.

For directions or for more information, please contact Melody Bro, Union Grove Lake Watershed Project Coordinator, at 641/484-2702, extension 120, or at melody.bro@ia.nacdnet.net.

The Union Grove Lake Watershed Project is a cooperative effort of the Tama Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.