



Luxurious Lawn tips from Olivette In Bloom

On Thursday evening, April 13, master gardener, Al Hirson, presented “Luxurious Lawns”, the final program in Olivette In Bloom’s free Gardening 101 series. Al shared strategies to prevent weeds, disease, and other lawn problems.

*Mow it Tall & Let it Fall

Lawns should be mowed to a height of 2.5 inches to 3.5 inches. Clippings should be returned to the lawn not ‘captured’ or bagged. Grass clippings less than 1 inch in length will decompose quickly and supply 25% of the fertilizer lawns require. Mow with a sharp blade and only when the grass is dry. The benefits of using the “Mow it Tall” system include fewer weeds, a deeper root system, cooler soil surface, and less need to water.

*Watering

Water lawns early in the morning. Most lawn disease can be prevented if the grass is dry by noon. It’s best to water infrequently (once or twice a week) but deeply. Healthy lawns require 1” of water per week.

*Fertilizing

The ideal time to fertilize most lawns is in the fall, with the exception of zoysia and Bermuda grass which are fertilized in summer. Lawns that were not fertilized in the fall can be carefully fertilized in spring. Consider using a balanced, slow release fertilizer. Avoid high nitrogen fertilizers.

All five Gardening 101 seminars were well attended and well received. OIB volunteers are now moving out of the classroom and into the community gardens at Stacy Park, the Olivette Community Center, and Veteran’s Park. On Saturday April 8, OIB volunteers assisted the Olivette Parks Dept. in planting the area around the new Feldman fountain in Stacy Park. A plant exchange was held at the Stacy Park pavilion on April 22. Volunteers shared breakfast, gardening plans and thoughts, and departed with seedlings and plant divisions for use in their home gardens. Become a volunteer and enjoy this great event with us next year!

For more information on lawn care, our community gardens, or to volunteer, contact us at olivetteinbloom.org. or call 872-8897.