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Prepare your lawn for summer with water-wise tips

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (February 13, 2014) — Register now for *Easy-Care, Water-Wise Lawns*, a free Gardening 101 seminar featuring turf and gardening experts Michael Potter and Brenda Beust Smith at The Woodlands Township on Saturday, February 22, 2014, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Now is prime time—when lawns are still dormant—to think about managing turf for the growing season, according to Mr. Potter, who is a Montgomery County AgriLife Extension Agent. In an entertaining, fast-paced presentation, Mr. Potter will reveal how to wean grass off of water.

"When the lawn starts to re-grow, it will be putting on new roots," the turf specialist says. He will share methods to encourage healthy root growth including the latest research and best practices for irrigating, fertilizing and managing diseases and pests.

Local gardening personality Mrs. Smith praises the virtues of lawns for being visually cooling in summer, soft places to walk and safe places for children and pets to play. However, she says, "huge expanses of grass have a downside. The average St. Augustine lawn uses more water than all of your other plants combined! *And*, it is taking water away from your trees."

Delivered with a good dose of humor, Mrs. Smith shares tried and true, *Lazy Gardener* methods for reducing the size of lawns. Learn how to add shade-loving groundcovers, create attractive borders and make do-it-yourself improvements look both professional *and* conserve water.

Space at the free seminar is limited; to reserve a seat, register online at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/gardeningevents. The class will be held at The Woodlands Township Board Chambers, 2801 Technology Forest Drive. For more information, please call 281-210-3800.

Gardening 101: Easy-Care, Water-Wise Lawns Topics and Speakers

- Lawns: A Greener Tomorrow!
 Michael Potter, Turf Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- How to Reduce the Size of Your Front Lawn for the Ecology's Sake without Infuriating Your Neighbors!
 Brenda Beust Smith, "the Lazy Gardener" garden author



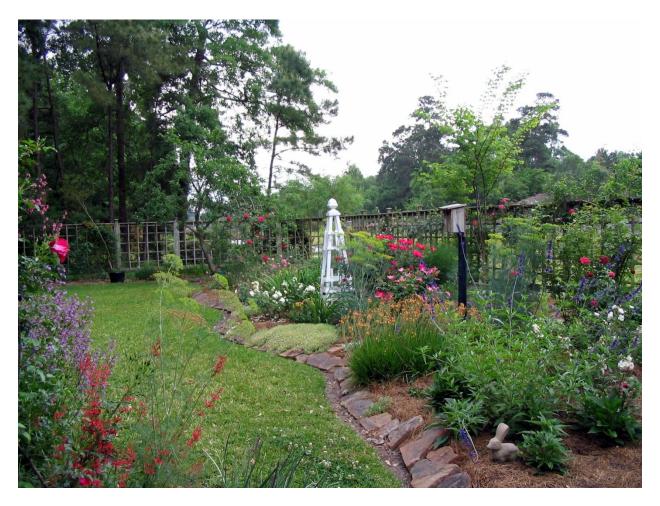


Photo by Linda Crum: Brenda Beust Smith and Michael Potter share methods that keep lawns and gardens attractive throughout the summer with minimal irrigation at *Easy-care, Water-wise Lawns* on Saturday, March 22, 2014, from 9 a.m. to noon at The Woodlands Township, 2801 Technology Forest Blvd., The Woodlands, 77381.