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Healthy Natural Lawn and Garden Checklist

1) Know your property:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| I know my property's shade, water and use characteristics | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I know my property's plants | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I know which plants are thriving | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I record in a garden journal what I know | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2) Design Plans:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| I consider who, how and what we use our property for before planning my garden | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I consider the best location to plant grass to avoid difficult growing areas | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I have chosen plants best suited for my garden | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I have chosen plants, shrubs, trees most naturally resistant to disease and insects | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I have chosen designs that discourage weed growth | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3) Soil Management:

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| I regularly top dress my lawn and amend my garden soil | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I mulch bare ground to prevent soil erosion & weed infestation | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I replenish the mulch annually | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I avoid excessive garden tilling | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I have a diversity of plants for diverse soil micro-organisms | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4) Lawn Overseeding

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| In the spring I check for dying grass and repair with top dressing and overseeding | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I use a blend of grass seed types (fescues, bluegrass, ryegrass) | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I include endophyte-enhanced seed | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I use an alternative to grass in areas where grass does not grow well such as ground covers or mulches. | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I overseed the entire lawn every fall | Y | <input type="checkbox"/> | N | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5) Grass Cutting:

- I cut the grass according to its growth and no more than 1/3 its height at anytime Y N
- I set the mower height at 7.5cm (3inches) Y N
- I use a mulching mower and leave clippings on lawn Y N
- I keep the mower blades sharp for a clean cut Y N

6) Watering:

- I select grass, plants and trees considering low watering requirements Y N
- I water based on need not a fixed schedule Y N
- I water for at least 1hour to encourage deep roots and ensure 1” (rain gauge use) has been applied Y N
- I water plants and trees to soak the soil not the leaves Y N
- I water newly planted trees and plants more frequently especially during droughts Y N

7) Fertilizing:

- I apply natural fertilizers Y N
- When I fertilize in the spring, it is after the lawn naturally greens up Y N
- I apply a fall fertilizer to encourage the storage of nutrients over the winter. Y N

8) Compaction & Thatch Management:

- I aerate clay-based soil at least yearly Y N
- I aerate in the spring & fall if required Y N
- I monitor the lawn for thatch Y N
- If there is 1.5cm or more of thatch I de-thatch Y N

9) Weed Management:

- I ensure a diverse property Y N
- I use hand, thermal or mechanical weeding as required Y N
- I do not over-use tilling of beds Y N
- I mulch gardens to suppress weeds Y N
- I ensure my lawn is properly watered, cut, fertilized, over-seeded, and maintained to ensure a healthy, naturally weed resistant lawn Y N