



## Greenworks Summer Newsletter



### Conservation Ideas

With so little water in many parts of the world, do we really need the sprinkler going on our lawns? Not usually - in fact, grass only needs 1" of water a week. So rain is often enough. When we get hot dry conditions in July and August, grass will naturally go brown and dormant, but will recover once temperatures cool off. Much better to make sure our oxygenating trees and shrubs get watered during

periods of drought. Get more information on [ORGANIC LAWN CARE](#) and click on our lawn care calendar.

#### Bright Idea #2 -

Recycle not only plastic shopping bags but also bread and veggie bags, among many others. Supermarkets such as Loblaw & Metro have dedicated drop-off bins at their stores. You can also reuse veggies bags by bringing them along with your shopping bag.



#### Bright Idea #3 -

Unlike in Toronto, styrofoam packaging is not accepted in blue boxes in York Region. It all goes into LANDFILLS unless we collect it ourselves and drop off at a [designated](#) recycling depot (or bring a collection to a friend when visiting Toronto).



Providing donated software and technology resources for qualified Canadian charities, nonprofits & libraries. <http://www.techsoupcanada.ca>

### Farmers Market Season is Here!

Check out [this guide](#) and visit a market near you or further afield during your travels in Ontario this summer and fall. Some markets are open all year round!

One market that isn't listed on the guide is the [Woodbridge Village Farmers Market](#) with special themed days -

June 27 - Italian Day

July 11 - Emergency Services Day

July 25 - Animal Services Day

August 8 - Corn Roast Day

August 22 - Honey of a Day

September 12 - Environment Day

September 26 - Apple Crunch Day

October 11 - Harvest Day



July 4 - Canada Day & Very Strawberry Day - Strawberry jam making workshop for kids

July 18 - Cheese Tasting Day

August 1 - Library Outreach Day

August 15 Cheese Tasting Day

August 29 - Farmer Appreciation Day

September 19 - Soupalicious Day

October 3 Pumpkin Pie Trail

**Saturdays, 9am - 1pm, rain or shine**

**Come visit YREA booth at the market on Environment Day, Sept. 12th!**

Why not take the kids to a fair? At the recent Schomberg Agricultural Fair we were able to see all the grains grown locally by organic farmers right in King Township and milled within a short distance. Did you know that open pollinated corn provides both feed and cornmeal?



### Biochar Update

YREA is in year 3 of our biochar urban tree and agricultural field trail research and will be conducting urban tree soil sampling in Markham and Vaughan this August. As a soil amendment and carbon capturing tool, biochar will be an important resource for municipalities within improved soil management practices & climate change action plans.



In collaboration with York Region Natural Heritage & Forestry and the support of York Region Environmental Stewardship, we have just established a research site in a York Region Forest to test the efficacy of biochar in suppressing soil phytotoxins produced by Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Three years of YREA involvement in pulling Garlic Mustard at Bakers Woods in Vaughan has not eliminated it. Garlic Mustard is an invasive, alien plant known to produce soil

toxins that weaken many of our native plants and trees. It displaces native wildflowers and hinders tree health by interfering with the growth of fungi that bring nutrients to plant roots. Research conducted elsewhere concluded that biochar can improve growth in toxic soils and may be helpful in restoring soil health. Biochar could be useful in our fight to control Garlic Mustard and YREA aims to provide scientific data of its effectiveness. Learn more about the benefits of [biochar](#).



### Please support our important work

We have the power at a local level to instigate changes having global benefits. Your support of the York Region Environmental Alliance will help us continue our work to seek sustainable solutions to environmental issues. Please consider giving us your support. Your tax receipted [charitable donation](#) will further YREA's continuing biochar research and community outreach activities.

