

# Your Garden

## Keep Your Grounds Looking Presidential

(NAPSA)—Homeowners don't need to live at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to have a presidential-looking lawn this year.

### What You Can Do

Abiding by some simple rules can help homeowners maintain an environmentally sound yard they can be proud of.

#### •Take care of the grass.

Lawns play a critical role in reducing soil erosion, maintaining soil permeability and conserving water.

•**Choose flowers and plants** that suit the climate. The correct plant types make care and maintenance easier and more cost efficient.

•**Frequent and proper pruning** helps produce better blooms, maintains plants' desired size and can help rejuvenate older plants and shrubs.

•**Enrich the soil with compost.** Materials such as coffee grounds, yard clippings, wood chips and leaves help rejuvenate the soil by adding rich nutrients.

•**Plant a tree.** A great way to further beautify a green space, it also provides such benefits as cooling shade and filtered air.

### What Others Are Doing

That's the advice from Cindy Code, Project EverGreen executive director, who recently got a firsthand look at the White House's iconic South Lawn when the organization was recognized by first lady Michelle Obama.

"The South Lawn at the White House is one of our country's most famous green spaces," Code said. "So many of our country's key events take place on this lawn. Homeowners, too, can easily create an enjoyable, healthy lawn at their property without a lot of work."

Project EverGreen is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the country's green spaces—including lawns,



**Following a few simple tips can keep the grass greener on your side of the fence.**

parks, golf courses and sports fields—for future generations.

Project EverGreen's GreenCare for Troops program was recently honored by the White House's Joining Forces initiative, spearheaded by first lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden. The initiative honored 20 communities and organizations that assisted military families.

The program pairs families of currently deployed military personnel with lawn and landscape contractors and volunteers who provide landscaping and lawn care services, free. The recognition is part of the White House's Joining Forces initiative.

"We were indeed honored to receive this recognition not only for our program but also for all the professionals and volunteers who have donated their time and services to this project," Code said. "It is a way to provide a true benefit to military families while also promoting the healthy benefits of a well-maintained green space."

### Learn More

For further information, visit [www.projectevergreen.com](http://www.projectevergreen.com).