

CONSERVATION FORUM

For and by Members of PGC – Sandy Menke, Conservation Chair

Something to Think About

by Jane Batte, PGC member

Recently, a friend of mine emailed this to me: When Han Soo, her husband to be, came to America, one thing that he especially noticed was the grass because in Korea every little patch of ground was used for growing something to eat, and he just could not imagine spending so much time, money, and effort on something so utterly useless as the grass that covered what to him could be great vegetable garden plots.

Grass: Grass replaces dandelions, violets, and milkweed that need no maintenance. It is not colorful and does not attract butterflies, or birds (maybe robins), but grubs and sod worms do like it! It takes great pains to grow it. Each spring it is fertilized which poisons other plants that crop up in the lawn. Several more applications and money are needed through the growing season to maintain its greenness! Then it rains and the grass really grows, but then it is cut and the cut grass is raked up and put in bought bags. Then stickers must be bought to take it away. If it does not rain, hoses or sprinkler systems water the grass only on certain days and hours, which of course, cost money.

Trees: Trees grow leaves in the spring and in the fall many shed their leaves. Now instead of leaving the leaves to protect shrubs and tree roots, they are raked up and more bags are bought to take them away. Then mulch is bought to take their place. Mulch comes from cut down trees and is ground to make several colors and kinds.

Do you see where I am going????? Let's start by making our own mulch.

Steps for making your own mulch:

Decide how much mulch you need. You need at least for it to be 2 inches deep. So find a flat area in your yard with no trees, bushes, flowers, or bulbs to make your mulch. Do know that it will kill grass. In the fall you need to rake up the leaves and run over them with your lawn mower. Spread the area with the leaf base and add small limbs and other organic matter to the leaves. Let it sit all winter and spread in the spring. Continue to add organic matter and use in the fall to protect plants from the winter. Easy peasy!!!!