There are 3x more acres of lawn in the US than irrigated corn, which makes lawns the single largest irrigated crop in America.

50-70% of the United States residential water is used for landscaping - mostly for watering lawns.

We use three times as much pesticide and herbicide on our lawns per acre as we do on our agricultural crops.

10% of water pollution comes from lawn care.

Nationally we use enough energy in lawn care every year to supply 1.5 million American households with power for a year.

According to a report from the National Academy of Sciences, one in seven people have had their health negatively impacted in some form by lawn pesticides.

Things you can do to make maintaining your lawn more sustainable:

- Having healthy soil is the first step to a healthy lawn. Test its pH, organic matter content, and nutrient content and use this to guide you as to when and how much to fertilize.

- Use fertilizer sparingly, and when you use it, use a slow release or organic fertilizer to avoid run off to local waterways.

- Use an electric mower, or better still a push mower, rather than a gas-powered machine that mulches the clippings back into the soil.

- Planting grass species that are native to our area’s climate and soil type, reduces the amount of care (such as watering and fertilizer) that it requires.

- Avoid watering your lawn unless it really needs it. If you must water, do so slowly (to allow water to seep deeply into soil) and in the early morning (to reduce loss to evaporation).

- Hand-pull weeds when possible. If you must use herbicides, try to “spot treat” only the weeds, rather than the whole lawn.

If you would like to help spread the word on recycling on campus, please contact Dr. Louise Wootton, Director of Sustainability, 732-987-2349, WoottonL@georgian.edu.