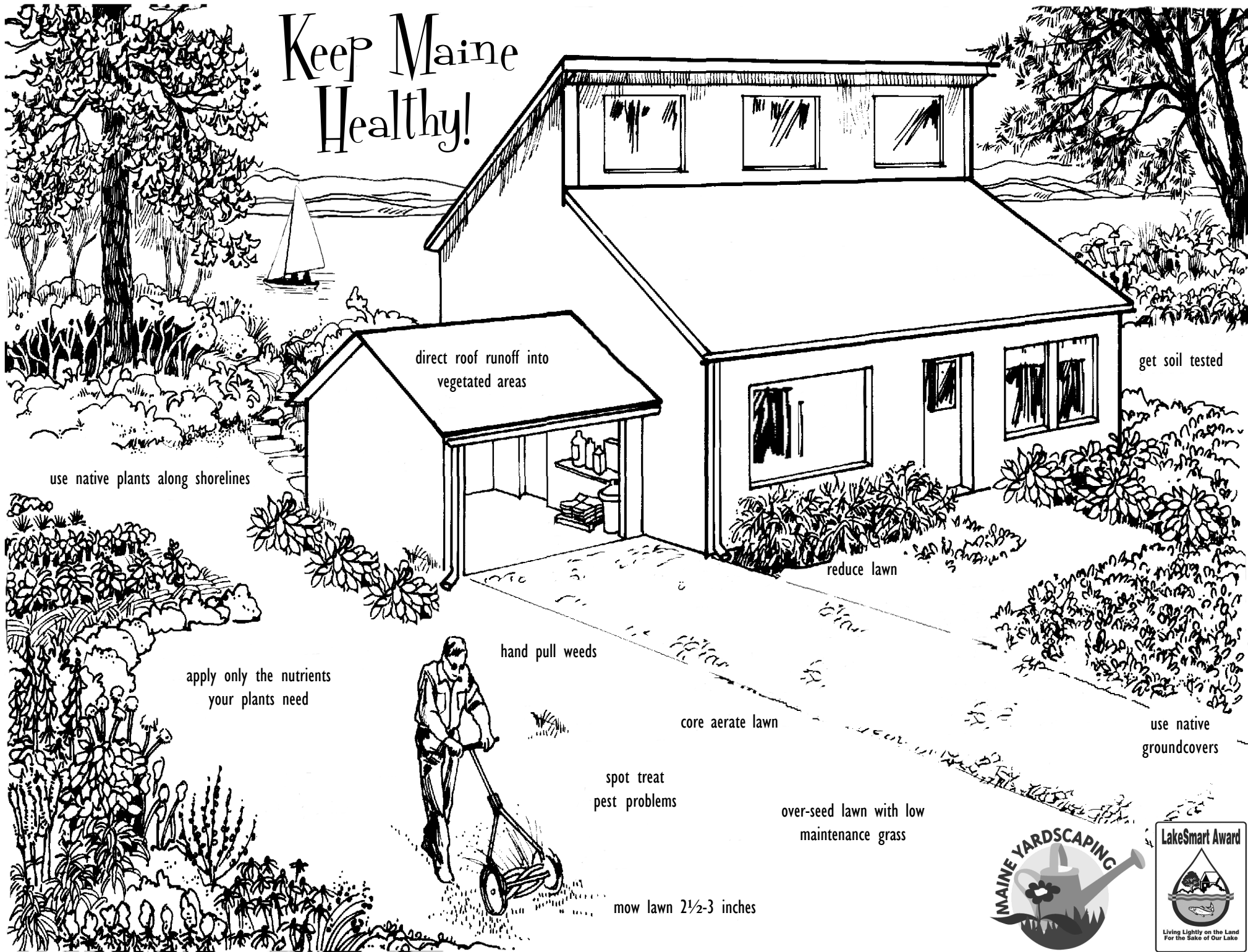


# Keep Maine Healthy!



direct roof runoff into vegetated areas

use native plants along shorelines

get soil tested

reduce lawn

hand pull weeds

apply only the nutrients your plants need

core aerate lawn

use native groundcovers

spot treat pest problems

over-seed lawn with low maintenance grass

mow lawn 2 1/2-3 inches



## for any YARD

- ✗ Get a SOIL TEST to decide what nutrients your plants and lawn need. Don't overfeed.
- ✗ Choose the RIGHT PLANT. Evaluate sun, water, pests, space & soil's pH.
- ✗ Avoid "INVASIVE non-native" plants.
- ✗ Welcome WILDLIFE by planting in layers: trees, shrubs, groundcovers.
- ✗ MOW frequently to a 2½-3 inch height. Leave clippings & keep mower blade sharp.
- ✗ WATER lawn deeply, infrequently & during the early morning hours.
- ✗ Control THATCH & reduce soil COMPACTION by core aerating your lawn.
- ✗ Monitor, identify & evaluate PESTS. A few weeds or insects are inevitable and have little effect.
- ✗ Use PESTICIDES only as a last resort. Spot treat pest problems.



## TIPS for a healthier Maine

### YardScaping

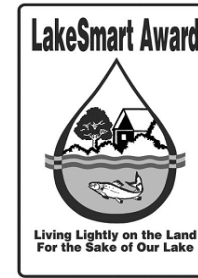


► Learn about lawns and landscapes that need less pesticides, fertilizer and water.

YardScaping  
207-287-2731  
yardscaping@maine.gov  
www.yardscaping.org

## LakeSmart

►► Look for this sign awarded to homeowners who manage their property to protect lake water.



Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
207-287-3901  
infodep@maine.gov  
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/>

## for LAKE properties

- ✗ Plant NATIVE trees, shrubs, ground cover to create "buffers" (natural filters) along shorelines & downhill of stormwater runoff.
- ✗ Do not rake up the "DUFF" - nature's mulch (twigs, needles & leaves that fall between the plants in the buffer).
- ✗ STABILIZE ditches along road, driveway & parking area with grasses and if necessary rock.
- ✗ Minimize IMPERVIOUS surfaces such as pavement, patios, decks, roofs, compacted gravel & compacted lawns. Direct all runoff from impervious areas to a buffer.
- ✗ Maintain your SEPTIC SYSTEM by pumping every 3-5 years, keep woody plants from growing in leach field & avoid overloading the septic system.
- ✗ Plant or mulch any areas that have BARE SOIL.
- ✗ Design winding PATHWAYS that divert runoff into a buffer.