

Tips for a Healthy Lawn

Best Management Practices for Lawn Care



“Green” practices to achieve a green lawn!

Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? Whatever enters the catch basins in our parking lots and roads goes untreated into our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes!

Did you know that nutrients and fertilizers can actually pollute our waterways, causing the green algae growth we see in many of our rivers and lakes?

Did you know that excess lawn watering, especially over fertilized lawns causes polluted water to drain into our storm drains and out into our fresh water?

What Can You Do?

Soil Testing

You may be wasting time and money by adding unnecessary nutrients to your yard. Do a soil test first and learn what your lawn really needs!

- Many lawns have sufficient nutrients already and do not need these nutrients added through a fertilizer
- Soil tests supply information about which nutrients are in your soil and can tell you when applications are no longer needed.
- Soil tests prevent overfertilizing which can save money & protect area waters by limiting excess nutrients in runoff

Fertilize in the Fall

The best time to fertilize is in the fall.

- Fall fertilization is best because the lawn has passed through the stressful summer months and needs food to rebuild itself.
- During the fall season there is less competition from weeds, insects and diseases.
- Nutrients are required to take full advantage of the cool weather growth period to restore the lawn to full health and prepare it for the next summer
- Never dispose of fertilizer down the storm drain
- Sweep up any excess fertilizer and put back on the lawn or dispose of properly.

Did you know a healthy lawn requires about an inch of water a week?

Tips for Watering your Lawn

- Use a rain gauge to measure rainfall and watering
- Use a sprinkler that shoots low to the ground - oscillating sprinklers often loose water to evaporation
- Set your mower height high (2½ inches or higher) lawns maintained at higher heights usually develop deeper roots and dry out slower
- Determine your lawn's watering needs - if grass in a footprint does not spring back, watering is needed
- Brown grass is dormant and not dead - dormant grass cannot be brought back to green once it has gone dormant
- Dormant lawns only need ¼ to ½ of water every 2-3 weeks



Water your Lawn - not our waterways!

- Watch the weather. Don't water if a one-inch rainstorm has occurred in the last week
- Postpone watering if the forecast calls for rain
- Don't set a schedule for watering, apply only when needed
- Don't water heavily after applying fertilizer
- Set up your sprinkler so it only waters the lawn and not nearby paved surfaces



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