

WHAT YOU CAN DO . . . ABOUT
LAWN CARE



Fertilizer and grass clippings easily find their way into drains, which can lead to algae blooms in rivers and lakes.

Help keep our rivers, lakes, and beaches clean

WHAT YOU CAN DO . . .
ABOUT LAWN CARE



How can I grow a green lawn while protecting our lakes, rivers, and beaches?

- **Keep fertilizer and lawn clippings on the lawn**
Sweep or blow fertilizer and grass clippings back onto the lawn and not into the street to prevent them from getting into storm drains and ditches, which can cause algae problems. Don't dump lawn clippings into drains or ditches.
- **Mow high and leave the clippings**
Set your mower deck high (three inches) to establish strong, healthy roots and shade out weeds. Leave clippings on your lawn to return nutrients to the soil.
- **Fertilize in the fall**
Fertilize in the fall. Fall is the best time for plants to absorb nutrients and develop a strong root system.
- **Hire a knowledgeable contractor**
Check out Michigan Green Industry Association's endorsed companies for the Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection at www.landscape.org.
- **Create fertilizer-free zones**
Keep a 15-foot buffer along waterfronts in your yard by not fertilizing or just letting the grass grow. A buffer helps to keep grass clippings and fertilizer from getting into the water and causing algae problems. A buffer can also help discourage geese.
- **Reduce your lawn area**
Making your lawn smaller by creating more planting areas with native plants will help infiltrate more water and reduce the amount getting into storm drains.

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