

Clean Water

At A Glance

Lawn &
Garden

Lawn & Garden

There are just a couple of easy tips you can follow in your lawn and garden care that will help prevent water pollution. Fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals left on yards or driveways are easily washed or blown into storm drains that flow to our rivers and streams.

Once in the river, chemicals that make your yard beautiful have an ugly effect on wildlife and water quality. Consider the following tips for a healthy yard, healthy river, and in many cases a healthy wallet!

General Landscaping Tips

Store fertilizers and other chemicals under cover to protect them from rain & wind.

Plant slopes with dense ground covering plants to prevent erosion.

Go Native! Plant native vegetation to reduce the amount of water, fertilizers, and pesticides applied to the landscape. Visit www.ci.springfield.or.us/ESD for more information.

NEVER apply fertilizers or pesticides when rain is predicted within the next 48 hours.

Lawn & Garden Maintenance

Use a grass seed mix that is for the Pacific Northwest. These grass mixes are well suited for the soil types and climate of our area.

Mow your lawn high -- aim for 3 inches. This promotes healthier roots and a healthier lawn. A higher lawn needs less fertilizer and tolerates hot, dry conditions better.

Healthy Lawns.

Healthy Rivers.

The River Begins at Your Front Door

Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline
telephone: (541) 726-3694



Lawn & Garden Maintenance (continued)

Do not overwater and don't use a watering schedule. Water only when grass or plants show signs of needing it. Overwatering increases the risk of washing chemicals into nearby storm drains.

Don't rake or blow leaves, clippings or pruning waste into the street where it can be washed down a storm drain. Not only is this bad for water quality, it can cause street flooding when storm drains become clogged.

Use slow-release fertilizers to minimize the amount of chemical that is washed away by rain, and look for organic products.

Read labels carefully and follow all instructions. **Do not over-apply pesticides and fertilizers.** Apply to spots as needed, rather than blanketing an entire area.

Grass clipping and mulched leaves are an ideal food source for your lawn, consider using a mulching lawn mower and not raking clippings up.

Attention Water-Front Residents

Being on the water's edge, your actions have an even greater effect on the health of local streams and rivers. You can take additional steps to protect our waterways.

Plant a buffer strip of native plants between the water and your yard. This protects against erosion and filters out pollutants.

NEVER burn yard waste along the water's edge -- ashes contain phosphorus, which can be very harmful to water quality.

Do not feed wildlife; it increases the amount of animal waste in the water.

Plant trees & shrubs at the water's edge to help provide shading and wildlife habitat.

Additional Resources

www.springfield-or.gov/dpw/CW_Gardens.htm

www.healthylawns.org

www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/lawncare.pdf

There are a number of great books on gardening with native plants in the Pacific Northwest. Check out your public library or favorite bookstore to find one that suits your style!



Be a clean water hero.
Protect our waterways.