

Green Grass and Clear Water

Many of us value having nice lawns and enjoy the time we spend working on them. However, some lawn care practices can create water quality problems. Plants need nutrients to grow, but excess nutrients, including the nitrogen and phosphorus found in fertilizers, can run off our properties when it rains and cause problems in local waterbodies. Too many nutrients in our water can trigger algal blooms that cloud water and rob it of oxygen.

Here are some easy practices for creating and maintaining a truly healthy lawn that looks great and is safer for the environment!



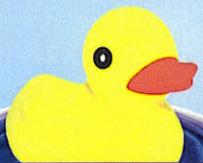
- Test your soil! Only apply fertilizer when necessary.
- Apply fertilizer sparingly and ensure proper fertilizer application rates.
- Apply fertilizers in the spring and early fall when grass is vigorously growing.
- Select fertilizers with low or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates otherwise.
- Apply organic fertilizers if possible.
- Choose slow release fertilizers when possible.
- Try not to apply fertilizers near waterbodies.
- Don't overwater. Typically, 1-inch of water per week applied over 1 or 2 days is enough.
- Mow grass no shorter than 3" high.
- Cut grass often enough so you never remove more than 1/3 of the blade at a time.
- Leave the clippings after mowing so they can return nutrients to the soil.

Using these water-quality friendly lawn care and fertilizer recommendations is a small change that can make a big difference.

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For more information on the Town of Douglas MS4 Stormwater Management visit <https://douglas-ma.gov>





THINK BLUE
MASSACHUSETTS

Do Your “Doody” for Clean Water

You hate stepping in it. And fish hate swimming in it, too! Dogs produce a lot of waste which, if not disposed of properly, can end up in our waterways. Do your part to keep our waters and public areas clean and healthy! Bag your pet's waste and throw it in a trash can.

DO



DON'T



Did you know that the average dog can produce nearly a pound of waste each day?

- Pet waste left on lawns and in public spaces is not only gross. It can be quite harmful too.
- Pet waste contains twice as much bacteria as human waste!
- If left in your yard, pet waste can kill grass and other plants.
- Adults and children who come in contact with it can get sick.
- When pet waste washes into storm drains and waterways, it can make the water unhealthy for people and wildlife.
- Pet waste in waterways can even cause algae to grow, making the water turn an unpleasant green color.

To learn more, visit the www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org



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