



STORMWATER FRIENDLY LAWN CARE

HOW YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR LAWN AFFECTS OUR WATER SUPPLY

With spring already here and summer on its way, it's time to get our lawns ready for Summer. In doing so, we have to add fertilizers and nutrients to harvest a lush, green landscape capable of withstanding the summer temperatures and dry conditions. So what does lawn care have to do with stormwater? A lot!

The fertilizers and nutrients your lawn does not absorb, are washed away when it rains. The excess fertilizer and nutrients wash to the stormdrains, then streams, and end up in the Catawba (our water supply) or South Fork Rivers. Excess nutrients in surface waters can harm aquatic life and habitat, cause algal blooms, and affect human health. Remember stormwater is NOT treated before it reaches our water supplies. Here are some friendly lawn care tips:

- Get a free soil test: Gaston County Natural Resources and the NC State Co-op Extension Service, both in Dallas, NC, offer free soil test kits.
- Do not cut your lawn too short: Keep it cut to a minimum of 3-4 inches to help decrease chance of erosion and dry spots.
- Grass Clippings: Leave the clippings on your lawn as a natural fertilizer or bag them up. Do NOT blow or sweep them into the storm drains.

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