

HEALTHY LAWN CARE



GREAT LAWN

*You Can
Make A
Difference*

Healthy Lawn Care in Four Easy Steps:

STEP 1—*May 1 through Memorial Day*

YOUR MOWER: Have your mower blades sharpened. Adjust blade height to 3” all summer, your lawn will be less susceptible to drought, weeds and insects.

GRASSCYCLE: Leave your grass clippings on your lawn, they are a valuable source of nitrogen and can reduce your fertilizer use by a third.

FOLLOW THE 1/3 RULE: cut no more than 1/3 of the grass blade each time you mow (if your mower is set at 3”, mow again before the grass grows to 4.5”).

COMPLETE SOIL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS TEST every 3-5 years (before you fertilize.) Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ontario County @ (585) 394-3977 ext. 31 for soil testing.

You can apply a **SLOW RELEASE, LOW PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER** - always follow product labels.

STEP 2—*Summer Months*

No fertilization is necessary - your lawn may become dormant (straw color) in dry, hot weather.

STEP 3—*Around Labor Day*

If you choose to fertilize just once a year, now is the best time. Apply a **SLOW-RELEASE, LOW PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER.**

Conduct a grub test by peeling back one square ft of turf. If you find fewer than 10 grubs in that square, you **DO NOT** have a problem. If a problem is seen, treat the areas now while grubs are actively feeding.

If you have a serious weed problem or must reseed, attend to it now.

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STEP 4—*November 1 through November 30*

After top growth has stopped and before the ground freezes, you can apply **QUICK-RELEASE, LOW PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER.**

To reduce snow mold, lower mower height to 2” for your final mow.

Keep storm sewers free of leaves and debris.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Unwanted fertilizers and pesticides (HHW) can become environmental hazards when disposed of improperly. Ontario County provides its residents with a way to safely recycle or dispose of these & other materials free-of-charge one time per year usually in the Fall. For details call (585)526-5191.

Composting

Composting is nature’s way of breaking down plant materials. To “recycle” your vegetable and fruit scraps, leaves and grass, you need:

an out of the way area

2-3 parts brown material (leaves, twigs, straw)

1 part green material (grass, dead plants, vegetable scraps)

water the pile until as moist as a wrung-out sponge

mix the pile every 2 to 3 weeks

Do not add meats, fat, salad dressing, or pet waste. An “active” pile produces good compost within a year.

For more information call the Cornell Cooperative Extension—Ontario County Garden helpline at (585)394-3977 ext. 31 or visit www.cce.cornell.edu

*The Transfer Station at 420 Hook Road is available to Town of Farmington Residents at no cost to dispose of **BRUSH, LEAVES & GRASS CLIPPINGS ONLY** Contact Highway/Parks Depts for further details.*



TOWN OF
FARMINGTON

MS-4 PHASE II

COMPLIANCE
PROGRAMS

PESTICIDE APPLICATION LAWN CARE and LANDSCAPING

How to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Best Management Practices for:

- Landscapers
- Pesticide Applicators
- Lawn Maintenance Crews
- Developers
- Home Builders
- Patio & Deck Contractors
- Homeowners
- Construction Inspectors

Highway/Parks Departments
5630 Collett Road
Farmington, NY 14425
(315)986-5540(Voice) (315)986-9268(Fax)
wfarming@rochester.rr.com

STORMWATER POLLUTION

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris, grass clippings, fall leaves & other potential pollutants.

What is the Problem?

Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as **STORMWATER POLLUTION**.

Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen can cause the overgrowth of algae resulting in oxygen depletion in waterways. Toxic substances from motor vehicles, and careless application of pesticides and fertilizers threaten water quality and can kill fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria from animal wastes and improper connections to storm sewer systems can make lakes and waterways unsafe for wading, swimming and fish consumption. Eroded soil is a pollutant as well. It clouds the waterway and interferes with the habitat of fish and plant life.

Fortunately, stormwater pollution can be prevented or minimized by implementing Best Management Practices which are procedures or activities that reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater.

How to Prevent Pollution From

Landscaping and Lawn Care

Best Management Practices

- Cover & contain topsoil & mulch during installation
- Plant rain gardens of native drought & pest-resistant plants to collect & filter rainwater
- Plant vegetated filter areas or swales to trap pollutants along streets & driveways
- Install pervious pavement & gravel driveways to reduce stormwater runoff
- Do not drain swimming pools to storm drains or road ditches
- Install vegetative buffers along streams & drainage pathways
- Compost or mulch leaves & yard debris rather than hauling to dumps
- Direct downspouts away from driveways or storm drains, or install rain barrels to collect roof runoff
- Maintain septic systems to prevent failure & inspect every 3 years
- Sweep up litter & debris from driveways & parking lots rather than hosing debris into storm drains
- Install & maintain sediment & erosion control measures during soil disturbing activities
- Reduce amount of paved surfaces

How to Prevent Pollution Pesticide Applications

Everything you apply to the lawn can potentially contaminate surface & ground waters.

Best Management Practices:

- Triple rinse and recycle empty pesticide and fertilizer containers
- Use proper spray notification signage and comply with neighbor notification regulations
- Comply with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation pesticide application regulations
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to avoid runoff or leaching from excess chemical applications
- Avoid using chemicals near waterways or storm drains
- Dispose of unused or excess pesticides in accordance with NYS DEC and US EPA regulations
- Clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials
- Fill tanks on a gravel surface, away from storm drains, sewers or ditches
- Avoid spraying in windy conditions or when rain is forecast
- Provide spill containment at storage facilities and store chemicals away from floor **drains**

