

How Green is Your Lawn?

Are you in the habit of applying fertilizer or paying someone to fertilize your lawn every spring?

Did you know that when fertilizer is applied improperly it may pollute the Clinton River, and its tributaries? Though we all want to have green and luscious lawns this spring and summer, we also need to be aware of the potential hazards our lawn care practices may cause.

When too much fertilizer is applied it washes off easily and becomes very harmful to the environment. This is especially true when a rain storm comes. Rain can wash fertilizer straight into the storm drain. Most storm drains empty into our lakes, rivers and streams.

Some tips to keep in mind

- If a fertilizer warns of keeping children and pets off the lawn for 24 hours, it would be wise to discontinue its use all together.
- Using a slow release fertilizer is effective as it spreads over time and is less likely to drain away.
- Note that when you water and mow your lawn properly, you may not need much fertilizer.
- If you must fertilize, stick to earth-friendly fertilizers and do it sparingly.

For a list of earth friendly fertilizers visit: http://www.crowc.org/resources/ed_materials/index.html

For home lawn care tips visit: <http://turf.msu.edu/home-lawn-articles> or <http://www.healthylandscapes.com/>

For a list of lawn professionals who participate in the **Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection** visit http://www.landscape.org/healthylawncare_pro.html

For more information on the Clinton River and its watershed visit www.crowc.org.