



Environmental Benefits of a Healthy Lawn

Well-maintained Lawns Sustain the Planet

- Properly fertilized, well-managed turf has a greater capacity for absorbing and retaining water than any other ground cover, improving the lawn's ability to absorb nutrients and resulting in less runoff. Healthy, dense lawns help keep lakes and streams clean by allowing rainwater to filter into the soil rather than running into storm sewers and washing away valuable soil. *(PLANET, Professional Landcare Network)*

Nature's Air Conditioner

- The cooling effect of an average-sized 10,000-square-foot lawn is enough to cool about nine average-size homes. *(Virginia Cooperative Extension)*

Lawns Clean the Air

- It is estimated that the millions of acres of lawns in the United States absorb 5 percent of the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. A healthy 2,500-square-foot turf area converts enough oxygen through photosynthesis to support a family of four. *(Multiple university studies at: Colorado State University, Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University, Michigan State University, Ohio State University, University of Illinois and Texas A&M University)*

Grass is a Natural Filter

- Turf grass in the United States collects approximately 12 million tons of dust, dirt and smoke, which is trapped in part by the grass leaves and absorbed into the soil system by water condensed on the leaves and rainfall. *(Multiple university studies at: Colorado State University, Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University, Michigan State University, Ohio State University, University of Illinois and Texas A&M University)*

Healthy Turf Minimizes Runoff

- The average 10,000-square-foot lawn can absorb more than 6,000 gallons of water from a rainfall event, limiting the potential for runoff. *(University of Missouri Extension)*
- The introduction of turf and other natural, porous ground covers are primary means to reduce runoff. These natural barriers act as filters and increase the amount of runoff absorbed into the ground. *(Environmental Protection Agency, 2003)*
- Solid surfaces like roofs, driveways, parking lots or roads can create large amounts of runoff that pick up pollutants. In downtown areas, 55 percent of rain and snow runs off the ground, 30 percent evaporates and only 15 percent soaks into the ground. *(Metro WaterShed Partners, Minneapolis/St. Paul, 2004)*