

Healthy lawns. Clean waters.

Protecting the Bay starts in your backyard.

For most of us, our home is our greatest investment. It's our sanctuary, our castle and our kingdom. And it's with great pride that each of us plants and landscapes our little corner of the world.

Yet it's important that we maintain our personal green spaces with the rest of the environment in mind. Especially in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

While healthy lawns prevent erosion and reduce storm sewer runoff, impermeable surfaces like roads, sidewalks and driveways do not. That's why it's important to sweep lawn fertilizer back onto the lawn if it lands on any hard surface.

If you use lawn and garden products, be sure to follow the directions. And never put unused products, even organic fertilizers, down the storm sewer.

Green space has countless benefits. Let's maintain it in a way that also protects our environment.

*The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
The Mid-Atlantic Land Grant Universities
Water Quality Consortium
The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company*
Partners in Protecting The Chesapeake Bay.



7 Tips on Lawn Care Stewardship:

- 1 If you apply fertilizer in the spring, do so after your grass is actively growing.
- 2 Apply fertilizer at the spreader setting shown on the bag.
- 3 Sweep fertilizer off hard surfaces to prevent it from entering storm sewers.
- 4 Keep grass clippings, tree leaves and pet waste off hard surfaces to prevent them from entering the storm sewer.
- 5 Mow at the highest setting of your lawn mower.
- 6 Leave grass clippings on your lawn to improve its health and quality.
- 7 Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn, for quickly improved vigor and a healthier, greener lawn next spring.