

Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone River by 2015

“Greening” Your Lawn and Gardens

Lawns/ Gardens

Reducing Your Use of Fertilizer, Toxic Pesticides, and Herbicide on Your Lawn and Gardens

WHY?

Car Care

Whether you are growing grass, beautiful flowers or delicious vegetables, consider doing this without using fertilizers, toxic pesticides, and herbicides.

Pet Waste



Lawn: If you have a lawn, you may be using fertilizers and weed killers to keep it green and weed-free. When it rains, these chemicals are washed into the street. **Storm drains** in the streets collect the runoff and empty it untreated into the nearest waterway. So, when you fertilize or treat your lawn, you could also be fertilizing or harming our lakes and streams. Fertilizer encourages algae growth. This can form large algae blooms and uses up oxygen that fish and other critters need to survive. Pesticides kill aquatic insects and herbicides kill aquatic plants, both of which fish and other species need to survive.

Clean Dishes/ Clean Streams

Gardens: In your gardens, herbicides and pesticides can harm children, pets, and local wildlife and kill helpful insects such as ladybugs and green lacewings that keep real pests in check. Even when used sparingly, these chemicals can end up washing down storm drains, into streams and eventually polluting the local water supply.

Rooftop Runoff

Here's how to create a natural lawn and help protect the health of your family, wildlife, and our local resources.



<http://www.lismore.nsw.gov>

Household Hazardous Waste

HOW?

- ◆ Get your soil tested and apply fertilizers only at the appropriate time in the right amounts. UMass Extension and URI Extension can help you test your soil and have information about chemical-free lawn and garden care.

- ◆ To naturally strengthen the resistance of your plants and lawn to pests, build healthy soil by adding organic matter such as compost. Make your own compost or purchase it.

- ◆ If you fertilize at all, it's better to use compost instead of chemical fertilizers. Fertilizers act as pollutants once they enter our waterways.

- ◆ If compost doesn't work for you, then use an organic or slow-release fertilizer. A slow-release fertilizer has at least half of the nitrogen in water insoluble form. These fertilizers gradually release nitrogen to plant roots. This provides a steady supply of plant nutrients over an extended period of time. Because you need less fertilizer, you will save time and money.

Pervious Surfaces

- ◆ Select a fertilizer with low or no phosphorus. Most lawns already contain enough phosphorus. Excess phosphorus is the primary culprit of algae blooms in our lakes.

Stream Buffers

- ◆ Make fertilizer-free zones of at least 20 feet from the edge of lakes, streams or storm drains.

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