Sidewalks Are for Chalk

Did you know that storm drains in our streets are directly connected to local creeks, streams, and rivers? Rainwater and sprinklers easily wash fertilizers, grass clippings, trash, and pet waste from driveways, roads, and sidewalks into our waters. Make sure that anything you put on your lawn stays there by following label directions and applying to targeted areas.

Around Water

Leave buffers around water sources. Pay special attention to protecting creeks, ponds, and reservoirs. Plants help stop pollution before it gets to waterways.

Stay Hydrated

It is important to make a decision about whether or not you'll provide regular watering for your lawn to keep its green color, or let it go dormant in the summer. Dormancy is best suited for well-established lawns rather than new or heavily trafficked lawns. Residents in new developments may want to keep their lawns watered.

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2018

Get Grassy!

Your Lawn Matters for Water Quality

What is Get Grassy?

Get Grassy! encourages central Ohio residents to take good care of their lawns, an important part of most home landscapes. Healthy lawns with deep root systems and drought and disease tolerance are better for water quality that poorly-maintained lawns.

Healthy grass provides environmental services that include slowing or filtering rainwater and preventing soil erosion. Sediment, or eroded soil, is a serious water pollutant!

In addition to proper lawn care, consider backyard conservation techniques like adding biodiversity with native plants, capturing rainfall with rain gardens and rain barrels, or composting at home to reduce organic waste while creating valuable soil amendment.

Take The Pledge, Get A Gift!

Visit getgrassy.org and pledge to do your part for water quality by caring for your lawn!

GET GRASSY!

Mow To Grow

Did you know all lawn mowers have adjustable settings? Using your mower's highest setting (3-4") allows you to grow taller grass with deeper roots. Taller grass shades out weeds and is more drought-resistant, so it stays green longer.

Spring grass grows fast! Mow more than once a week to avoid removing too much at one time. If you cut your lawn really short so you'll have to cut it less often, you will harm its root system and could kill it!

Topsoil Is King

Good topsoil is the foundation for a healthy lawn, but many new homes have had their topsoil compacted and removed during construction, leaving behind debris and clay. These lawns soak up little water and require more fertilizer and pesticides. To slowly improve topsoil so your grass grows better, add organic materials like lawn clippings and mulched leaves.

Rain Is Your Resource, Soak It In

Install a rain barrel or add a rain garden to your yard to put rainwater to work for you. For rebate information, visit communitybackyards.org.

Applying Fertilizer

Grass isn't concrete, but a plant in your managed landscape that benefits from a low level of supplemental nutrients. Dense blades and healthy roots trap rainwater and hold soil in place better than patchy lawns can. Adding organic matter by "grasscycling" your clippings and mulching fall leaves can reduce fertilizer usage by improving your soil over time. If you only fertilize once a year, choose fall! University research shows fall fertilization is the best for growing healthy lawns with vigorous root systems. Too much or misplaced fertilizer can hurt your grass or cause water pollution, so pick the right kind and keep it on the grass and off driveways, sidewalks, and roads.

Not the Green We're Looking For

Dead plants, grass, and leaves create "food" for algae. Algae blooms pollute our water, make it smell and taste bad, and cost us more at the water treatment plant. Do your part to protect our water by simply pointing your mower so grass clippings land in the grass, not in the street or sidewalk, or sweep them up after mowing. They're great for composting!