



Fertilizer & Your Environment

Poorly applied fertilizers run off lawns into local creeks, lakes, rivers and, ultimately, into the ocean. Because fertilizer is often highly toxic the results harm waterways and the plants and animals that depend on our water for survival.

- ◆ **Well Applied Fertilizer Helps the Environment**—If applied wisely, a thicker and denser lawn becomes a better sponge to absorb toxic runoff before it runs off into waterways.
- ◆ **More Is Not Better**—Read and follow all instructions. Excess fertilizer that washes off lawns is wasted and harmful.
- ◆ **Use Slow Release Fertilizer**—Because its effectiveness is spread over time, the fertilizer is less likely to end up draining away and more likely to be helping the plant life intended for.
- ◆ **Don't Fertilize When Rain Storms Are Forecast**. The rain will wash any fertilizer on the lawn into storm drains.
- ◆ **Fertilize Only When Needed**.
- ◆ Certified organic fertilizers are usually safe for use on lawns and gardens. Chemical and biosolid fertilizers are considered hazardous waste, and should never be tossed in the trash or down the drain because they can contaminate local water bodies. Check with your local household hazardous waste facility that accepts fertilizers and pesticides.
- ◆ Contact local garden supply stores to see if they will accept your unused fertilizer for proper disposal.
- ◆ **Proper Disposal of Yard Waste**—Yard and grass clippings can reach our local waterways by washing into storm drains. Try composting on site or bag for collection.



REMEMBER—YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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