

NOVEMBER

HEALTHY LAWNS, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

As urbanization continues, land is replaced with impervious surfaces and compacted soils, leading to increased surface runoff and decreased infiltration. In some places, surface runoff loaded with sediments, chemicals, oil, gas, salts, and fertilizers does not flow into sewage treatment plants and may go directly into our water system.

Fall

Tips:

- Take soil tests to determine what, if any, physical or chemical amendments your soil needs.
- If there is a lake, pond, or stream on your property allow a natural buffer zone to prevent bank erosion and filter substances between the lawn and the filter.
- Fall is an ideal time to patch or renovate bare or thin spots to reduce runoff and erosion.
- For top-notch establishment don't take shortcuts during seedbed preparation.
- Use grass species adapted to your site and maintain them according to recommendations. In deep shade consider alternative ground covers or wood chips.
- To avoid runoff, know your infiltration rate and irrigation amount.
- To avoid plant stress, postpone aeration or dethatching in very wet or very dry conditions.
- Do not mix, apply, or dispose of any chemicals within 100 feet of a well. Clean up any spills on driveways, sidewalks, or paths rather than hosing into the street.
- Read the label and follow the manufacturer's directions for any materials applied. There is no truth to the thought that "if a little works, more will do better." In fact, using excess fertilizers or pesticides can burn your lawn. Irrigate after an application of fertilizer to get the material into the ground where it can be used by the plants.
- To avoid runoff, do not apply pesticides or fertilizers to soil that is already saturated or frozen.
- KEEP LEAVES OUT OF ROADWAYS OR DRAINS.
- AVOID WALKING ON GRASS UNTIL FROST BURNS OFF.
- DO NOT FERTILIZE DURING AN INDIAN SUMMER.
- MAKE YOUR LAST MOWING CUT ABOUT 1/2 TO 1 INCH LOWER THAN NORMAL TO DISCOURAGE MATTED GRASS AND SNOW MOLD.