
Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn

Pass these lawn care tips on to your residents for great looking lawns. Most importantly, using these guidelines keeps fertilizer out of our lakes and streams so that we will have more than just green lawns to enjoy this summer.

Healthy lawns keep water clean. After months of Michigan snow, our lawns begin to show signs of green again. It's exciting, but kicking your lawn routine into high gear can cause trouble for our water.

Storm drains in our streets and yards empty directly into our lakes and streams. Fertilizer on our driveways and sidewalks washes directly to our lakes and streams polluting the water.

Here are some simple lawn care tips for a great looking lawn:

Mow high. Keep your grass at least three inches tall to promote healthier roots.

Lawns love leftovers. Keep your grass clippings on the lawn...they are good food for your lawn.

Follow the directions. Too much fertilizer isn't a good thing and will just run off the lawn if it rains. Don't fertilize until three weeks after green up in the spring.

Sweep it. Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways easily washes into storm drains. Sweep it back onto the lawn.

Take control. Consider a fertilizer spreader with a directional control that avoids non-lawn areas.

Get to the root of it. Instead of spreading weed killer over your entire lawn, use a pre-mixed spot treatment, directed at the root of the problem.

Visit www.semco.org for additional information like [public service announcements](#), and [kids activities](#), or to [order materials](#) such as tip cards, posters, and displays. You can also contact SEMCOG's information services at infoservices@semco.org or 313-961-4266.

For questions about the "Our Water. Our Future. Ours to Protect." program contact Iris Steinberg at steinberg@semco.org or 313-961-4266.

Sincerely,
Your friends at SEMCOG,
the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments