

What You Put On Your Lawn Ends Up In Our Lakes

As you head out this month to work on your yard remember what you put on your lawn may end up in our lakes, rivers and wetlands. Follow these tips for clean water:

- Apply the correct amount of fertilizer for the size of your lawn. Get a soil test done to know the amount fertilizer needed for your lawn. Visit the U of M Soil Testing website for more information on getting a soil test performed by calling (612) 625-3101.
- Follow the Law. It is against the law to apply phosphorus fertilizer to existing lawns. The middle number on your fertilizer bag should read zero. Find more information about the phosphorus lawn fertilizer law here at mda.state.mn.us/phoslaw.
- Throw grass clippings back onto your lawn and not in the street or on your driveway when mowing. Grass clippings contain phosphorus the plant nutrient that turns our lakes green with algae. Too much algae in our lakes and rivers reduces aquatic habitat.
- Keep your lawn at 3 inches in height. This will keep your lawn healthier and stronger over the dry periods of summer and will mean you will water less, saving money on your water bill.
- Check out www.BlueThumb.org for ideas to reduce the amount of turfgrass and reduce your impact to lakes, rivers and wetlands. Find ways to create a raingarden, native garden or stabilize your stream bank or lakeshore.

Maintaining a healthy lawn is one step to improve the quality of our lakes, rivers and wetlands. For more information on lawn care practices for clean water contact Dan Miller, Water Resource Education Coordinator for the Scott Clean Water Education Program at (952) 492-5424 or dmiller@co.scott.mn.us.