

## Solutions for Reducing Water Pollution for Residential and Commercial Landscaping

### Design and Installation

- Design a landscape that reduces runoff and encourages natural infiltration of rain.
  - Minimize impervious areas.
  - Do not allow for bare soil areas to develop in the landscape.
  - Incorporate existing native vegetation into the landscape design when possible.
  - Choose turf grass that is heat and drought tolerant.
- Protect streams and waterways and reduce erosion by leaving an undisturbed vegetative buffer along stream banks.
- Do not plant on hard-to-mow areas such as steep slopes. Plant ground covers or shrubs to reduce maintenance.
- Mulch or seed areas where the land is disturbed due to grading, excavation or filling within 7 days.

### Applying Fertilizers

- Apply only the amount of fertilizer that the turf or plant requires.
- Do not apply fertilizer if heavy rain is predicted.
- Use slow-release forms of nitrogen, such as urea formaldehyde, IBDU or sulfur-coated urea.



### Applying Pesticides

- Read the pesticide label BEFORE you purchase, handle or apply it. The label provides safe usage and storage information. It is dangerous and illegal to not use as directed.
- Commercial landscapers are required to obtain a Georgia Pesticide Applicators License. For more information go to [www.agr.state.ga.us/](http://www.agr.state.ga.us/)



### Management of Grass Clippings

- Don't blow, sweep or dump grass clippings or leaves into the street, down storm drains or drainage ditches.
- Properly maintained turf grass improves soil structure, stabilizes topsoil and reduces erosion and runoff.
- Recycle grass clippings. Clippings and mulched leaves can provide up to 30% of the total fertilizer needs.
- Avoid mowing below 3 inches in grass height. Taller grass is healthier and has fewer weeds. Use a mulching mower when possible.
- Encourage and inform your neighbors the benefits of grass clipping recycling. Lawn clippings left on the ground can provide nutrients and lower the amount of fertilizer required.



### Helpful Links

- <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/landscaping-tips>
- <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watering-tips>
- <https://www.caes.uga.edu/>
- <https://turf.caes.uga.edu/>

Always be vigilant for anything that does not appear to belong in the storm drain system. If it does not look or smell like natural rain water, it probably isn't. If you see suspicious discharges, please report them to the **Public Works Department** at 404-296-6489

