



Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn...

LAWN MAINTENANCE



Fertilize Caringly

Did you know that healthy lawn care is a good way to protect our waterways? Proper fertilization is important for a healthy lawn. When fertilizer is put down at the right time and in the right way, it strengthens lawns. A healthy lawn protects water by holding soil and pollutants and minimizing the need for pesticides.

Fertilizer left on paved surfaces, over fertilizing and the improper applications harm our waters by causing fertilizer to get into storm drains in streets which empty into our creeks, streams, and rivers. Fertilizer in waterways causes algae to grow, which depletes oxygen that fish and crabs need to survive.

Remember, "keep it on the lawn!" Follow the tips on the back of this card for a healthy lawn and healthy water.

THINK BAY!



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FERTILIZE IN FALL - Want a vibrant spring lawn? Fertilize in the fall. Fall is the best time for plants to absorb nutrients and develop a strong root system.

BE PATIENT IN THE SPRING - No need to hurry – fertilizer you put down in the fall is at work. Wait until at least the second mowing before adding more fertilizer and only if needed.

KEEP IT ON THE LAWN - Keep fertilizer on the lawn. If you do get it on the pavement, sweep it back onto the lawn so it stays out of the storm drains.

KNOW THE LAW - Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law limits the amount of nutrients that can be applied to lawns or turf and restricts phosphorus content in lawn fertilizer. Fertilizer may not be applied between November 15 and March 1.

USE A PROFESSIONAL - Lawn care professionals hired to apply fertilizer to lawns must be certified by Maryland or work under the direct supervision of an individual who is certified. This ensures that your lawn receives the proper amount of fertilizer.

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS - Use a spreader and follow directions. This ensures that the right amount of fertilizer is being used.

MOW HIGH AND LET IT LAY - Make your lawn care cheaper and easier by mowing high (3 inches) and leave the clippings on your lawn for nutrients. A tall lawn promotes root growth and shades out weeds.

MAKE FERTILIZER FREE ZONES - Keep 15 feet between fertilizer and areas such as stream, creeks, and storm drains. This will protect these areas from unnecessary fertilizer.

Find more clean water tips at www.aarivers.org

