

LAWN CARE

- I. **Pollutant of concern/issue (what and why):** nutrients, insecticides, pesticides
Nutrients and chemicals from lawns and gardens are carried by stormwater runoff to streams, contributing to pollution and decreased water quality.
- II. **Audience (who):** homeowners, lawn care companies
- III. **Resources** -lists available media, articles, and programs posts that specifically address the concern and are tied to stormwater (water quantity or quality). References and resources are included with the articles and posts. These are also compiled in Section IV with other relevant reference materials.

SOCIAL MEDIA and ARTICLES			
Season	Artl	Title/Description	Social Media Content
Sp	X	Forgo the Fertilizer <u>TM</u> : spring fertilizer applications are not optimal for turf health and can increase the risk for pollution to our waterways. (Article: Do's and Don'ts of spring lawn care covers from mower preparation to herbicide application)	Skip the fertilizer this spring. Cool season grasses like fescue and bluegrass won't benefit for the long term. A better investment of your time and energy is preparing your lawn mower for the season. A sharp blade and proper mower height promote healthy, vigorous growth. References and Resources for Clients: AGR209: Mowing Your Kentucky Lawn AGR208: Weed Control for Kentucky Home Lawns ENTFact 402: Earthworms: Thatch-busters
Sp	X	Skip the Spreader <u>TM</u> : Optimized timing of fertilizer application is better for the lawn and the environment. (Article: See Do's and Don'ts of spring lawn care - covers from mower preparation to herbicide application)	Spring nitrogen applications promote the growth of warm-season weeds such as crabgrass, goosegrass, and bermudagrass. High nitrogen levels restrict turf rooting which weakens your grass. This makes it less drought tolerant and more prone to insect damage. For optimal benefits, fertilize your bluegrass/tall fescue only in the fall. Remember, follow label directions. It's the law! Excess and improperly timed fertilizer application increases the risk for nutrient runoff pollution to our waterways. Reference and Resources: Soil Testing and Fertilizer for Home Lawns: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTIVnAyR_rw

Any		<p>Start with a Soil Test <u>TM:</u> take a soil test before applying fertilizer.</p>	<p>A soil test is a chemical analysis of your soil. It provides information so you can make an informed decision about how and when to apply nutrients or other amendments to meet the needs of your plants. Excess and improperly applied fertilizer will not benefit your plants and wastes money. This also increases the risk for fertilizer runoff to water bodies which degrades water quality.</p> <p>Sample bags and instructions for collecting your samples are available at your local Cooperative Extension Service office.</p> <p>References and Resources: AGR57: Soil Testing: What It Is and What It Does Fact Sheet: Taking a Soil Sample for Horticulture Crops</p>
Sp/Su	X	<p>Don't Over-fertilize <u>TM:</u> Improperly timed and applied fertilizers increase risk of nutrient runoff to our waterways. (Article is an exclusive)</p>	<p>Excess fertilizer will not make your lawn healthier and can end up in our waterways. In the absence of a soil test, select fertilizers with no or low P & K, such as 46-0-0 or a turf type fertilizer. To learn more, contact the {County} Extension Office at [contact info].</p> <p>References and Resources: AGR 211: Calibrating Fertilizer Spreaders for the Home Lawn AGR57: Soil Testing: What It Is and What It Does Fact Sheet: Taking a Soil Sample for Horticulture Crops</p>
Sp	X	<p>Gear-up to Garden <u>TM:</u> soil test before fertilizing to reduce nutrient runoff; conserve water by mulching</p> <p>(Article: See Do's and Don'ts of spring lawn care - covers from mower preparation to herbicide application)</p>	<p>Before applying fertilizers, take a soil test. Results will help you identify problem areas in your garden and provide recommendations on the type and rate of fertilizer application to improve yield. Targeted and timely fertilizer application reduce the risk of over application and potential for runoff to our waterways. After your seeds have germinated and transplants are established, add some mulch to prevent weeds and conserve water. Use paper-based products like newspaper and cardboard and have the added benefit of recycling.</p> <p>References and Resources: AGR57: Soil Testing: What It Is and What It Does Fact Sheet: Taking a Soil Sample for Horticulture Crops</p>

Sp/Su/F		No P On My Lawn <u>TM</u> : Most KY soils won't need P and excess P contributes to nutrient pollution.	Most Kentucky soils have plenty of phosphorus (P). In fact, many are so naturally rich in phosphorus that adding more increases the risk for polluting our waterways. Excess phosphorus promotes rapid and over abundant algae growth which disrupts ecosystems, harms wildlife, negatively impacts water recreation and may contain toxins that sicken people and pets. Conduct a soil test before applying fertilizer. When purchasing fertilizer look for "0" in the middle number. References and Resources: HENV 402: Water Quality and Nutrient Management at Home
Presentations			
<i>See Stormwater General folder</i> Stormwater and Urban Landscapes Stormwater and Soil Tests <i>See No P Program folder for comprehensive program materials for residential audience to reduce P contributions</i>			

Sp=spring, Su = summer, F=fall, W=winter, TM = target message

IV. References and Resources

AGR50: Lawn Establishment in Kentucky

AGR57: Soil Testing: What It Is and What It Does

AGR208: Weed Control for Kentucky Home Lawns

AGR209: Mowing Your Kentucky Lawn

AGR 211: Calibrating Fertilizer Spreaders for the Home Lawn

AGR218: Herbicide Recommendations for Weed Control in Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue Lawns for Professional Applicators

ENTFact 402: Earthworms: Thatch-busters

HENV 402: Water Quality and Nutrient Management at Home

Videos:

How to Sharpen your mowers blade: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMy1j9NR89o&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhIg>

Soil Testing and Fertilizer for Home Lawns: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTIVnAyR_rw

Lawn Renovation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDuciEPWVvU>

V. Faculty Resources

Brad Lee

Rick Durham

- VI. **For MS4 Communities.** The following are examples of potential measures/evaluation methods to be used if working with the MS4 coordinator on a lawn debris program.

MCM1: Public Outreach

Number of educational materials developed and distributed (emails, print, website, social media/reach or followers)

Number of PSAs, articles or press releases

Number of homeowners attending educational workshops

Number of people engaged at events

Number of partnerships established with community organizations

Number of partnerships established with local businesses

MCM2: Public Participation (examples of potential measures)

Number of soil tests

Number of calls on proper fertilizer application or chemical use

Number of people attending pesticide applicator training

Number of likes/shares or other responses to media