

LAWN DEBRIS

- I. **Pollutant of concern/issue (what and why):** Nutrients
Lawn debris in stormwater introduces nutrients and contributes to nutrient pollution. It also clogs pipes leading to flooding
- II. **Audience:** 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

Season	Artl	Title/Description	Social Media Content
Sp/Su	X	Leave'em on the Lawn TM: grass clippings can provide up to 25% of your lawn's annual fertilizer requirements	Grass clippings rapidly degrade and provide an ongoing source of nutrients to your lawn during the growing season. Clippings also provide organic matter that helps improve your soil. For best results, and to avoid clumping, use a mulching mower and mow at the proper height and frequency for your grass type. Remember, keep clippings on the lawn and off of paved areas. You will reduce fertilizer use and eliminate the need for off-site disposal. It's good for your pocketbook and good for the planet. Suggested links to additional resources on lawn care and reducing fertilizer inputs: Mowing your Kentucky Lawn (AGR 209): http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/AGR/AGR209/AGR209.pdf Earthworms: Thatch-busters (ENT-FACT 402) https://www.uky.edu/Ag/ukturf/earthworms.pdf Organic Lawn Fertilizers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLg12Chm_Ao&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhlg
F	X	Fall Sweep TM: Leaves and grass left in the street can contribute to flooding and nutrient pollution	<i>Don't let your leaves become litter!</i> Lawn debris, like grass clippings and leaves, is a <i>free</i> source of nutrients for your lawn and garden, but creates problems when left in the street. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn debris clogs storm sewers, causing <i>flooding</i>. • Lawn debris adds NITROGEN and PHOSPHORUS to waterways, contributes to <i>water pollution</i> and promotes <i>algal blooms</i>. <i>Do your part! Don't send it to the creek. Sweep it Up!</i>
F	X	Don't Kick Them to the Curb	<i>Remember...</i>

		<p>TM: Leaves provide nutrients and add organic matter to soil</p>	<p>Mulched leaves provide beneficial nutrients for your turf and garden plants and help suppress weed growth. They add organic matter to the soil which helps retain soil moisture, reduces soil compaction, and improves water infiltration.</p> <p><i>So, don't kick them to the curb where they become a problem...leave them on the lawn!</i></p> <p>References and Resources: Video - Mulching Leaves into the Lawn</p>
Sp,Su	X	<p>Algal Bloom Blues TM: Excess nutrients promote algal blooms in our waterways</p>	<p>Algal bloom are an overgrowth of algae due to the presence of excess nutrients in water. They degrade water quality because they decrease oxygen levels in water and limit light to plants that provide food and shelter for aquatic organisms. Some produce toxins that are harmful to people and pets. By reducing runoff of nutrients from your home landscape, you help reduce surplus nutrients in our waterways.</p> <p>References and Resources: CES Pub: HENV-402, Water Quality and Nutrient Management at Home. http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/HENV/HENV402/HENV402.pdf</p>

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

IV. References and Resources

- V. HO75: Home Composting: A Guide to Managing Yard Waste
 AGR209: Mowing your Kentucky Lawn
 ENT-FACT: Earthworms: Thatch-busters
 AEU102: Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care
 ID192: Composting: Kentucky Master Gardener Manual Chapter 5
 HENV-402, Water Quality and Nutrient Management at Home

Videos:

Organic Lawn Fertilizers (link): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLg12Chm_Ao&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhlg
 Mulching Leaves into the Lawn (link): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVTY4BhsBz4>

VI. Faculty Resources

Rick Durham
 Brad Lee

VII. For MS4 Communities:

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 survey participants

Number of calls about lawn debris and composting

Number of requests for storm sewer clean out

Number of participants installing a compost bin

Number of likes/shares or other responses to media