Healthy Lawn for Healthy Water

Maintaining a healthy lawn provides great environmental benefits. Healthy lawns can help prevent soil erosion, protect our watershed from water runoff, and even inhibit weeds and other pests. Manage your yard to improve the health of your lawn and protect the water!

≈ Mow high (3-4" tall). Taller grass promotes deep roots, aids water and nutrient retention, and shades-out weeds.

≈ Mow regularly. This will reduce the need to collect clipping. It is best to cut less than 1/3 of the grass blade at any mowing to reduce plant stress and recovery.

≈ Leave grass clippings on the lawn. Clippings less than 1 inch long may be left on the lawn. They are a valuable source of nutrients for your lawn.

≈ Aerate the soil to alleviate ground compaction and allow roots to grow and water to infiltrate.

≈ Take a soil test to know what nutrients your lawn needs and to help select the right fertilizer for your lawn. Excess nutrients will wash off landscapes and pollute surface waters.

≈ Apply fertilizers and herbicides according to the label (It is the law!) and when they will be most effective.

≈ Know that fertilizers containing phosphorus cannot be used on lawns and turf in Minnesota unless specific conditions exist. Learn more: https://www.mda.state.mn.us/phosphorus-lawn-fertilizer-law

≈ Sweep up grass clippings, leaves, and other materials from hard surfaces to prevent stormwater pollution.

≈ Regularly check irrigation systems to make sure they are positioned correctly and water according to your lawn needs. This will prevent stormwater pollution and help conserve our precious water resources.