



Mowing the Lawn

DID YOU KNOW?

Grass clippings contain phosphorus, the nutrient that turns lakes green with algae. One bushel of fresh grass clippings can contain 0.1 lbs of phosphorus – enough to produce 30 – 50 pounds of algae growth if it finds its way to a lake or river!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Direct grass clippings away from streets, driveways, sidewalks and other paved areas.

Sweep up grass clippings and return them to the lawn.

Mow the lawn at a higher setting (over 2.5 inches) letting shorter blades fall back onto the lawn as natural fertilizer.

Mix grass clippings with leaves and soil to make a backyard compost pile.

Water your lawn in the early morning hours to avoid wasting water due to evaporation.

Evaluate your lawn needs and only water when necessary.



Yuck!

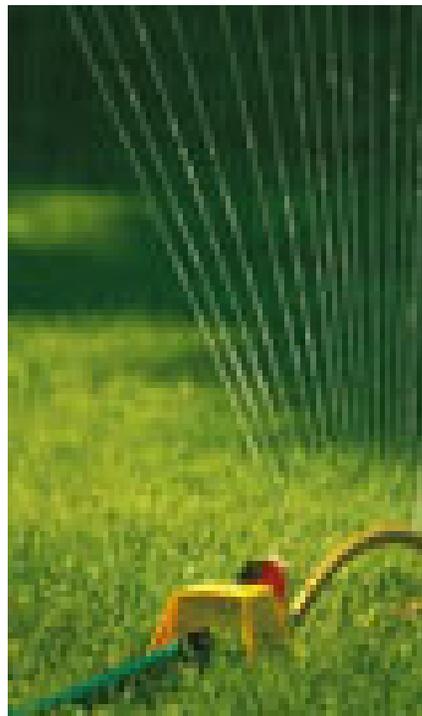
Tips

A healthy lawn requires about 1 inch of water a week.

Check for moisture in the soil about three inches under the surface by probing with a screwdriver.

To determine the rate at which your sprinkler system applies water to your lawn, place several small containers in the area being watered. Run the system for 15 minutes, then measure the depth of water in all of the containers and average them. Multiply the average by four to determine how much water is applied to the lawn per hour.

Watch the weather to see if watering the lawn this week is necessary.



Benefits

- Grass clippings are composed of 85% water!
- With grass recycling, use of fertilizers can be reduced by 30- 40% or more!
- Lawns mowed higher are more competitive against weeds.
- Lawns mowed higher withstand heat stress better, need less watering, and are more resilient, reducing bare spots and soil erosion.

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920-722-2151 (phone)

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P.O. Box 1861, Appleton, WI 54912



Weeds and Pesticides

DID YOU KNOW ?

It has been estimated that an average acre of a well maintained urban lawn receives an annual input of five to seven pounds of pesticides

What Can You Do?

- Maintain a healthy lawn by mowing frequently, with sharp blades set at 2 ½ to 3 inches
- Evaluate if a pesticide is necessary
- Spot treat weed and insect areas
- Practice hand-weeding
- Use mulches to reduce weeds
- Learn to live with a few weeds!

If you determine a pesticide is necessary, REMEMBER:

- don't buy more than you need
- only apply what is necessary
- do not apply in the rain (unless specified)
- never apply on bare ground or near wells, ponds, streams, etc.
- never dump excess pesticides on the ground or into the storm sewer
- consider sharing leftovers (in their original containers) with neighbors
- when a container is empty, rinse three times (each time pouring into a sink)
- use a Clean Sweep Program to dispose of pesticides and containers properly



Consider **Integrated Pest Management** - a decision-making process for managing pests and the damage they cause. Is your lawn contractor using Integrated Pest Management?

Does the landscaper spend time just looking at the lawn and garden?

Does he or she ask you about your lawn's history?

Does he or she suggest different plants for problem areas?

Does the landscaper spray insecticides on a regular schedule as a preventative without scouting or a history of infestation?

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HOWS AND WHYS ON PREVENTING FATS, OILS, AND GREASE FROM ENTERING SEWER LATERALS

Just as grease clogs your arteries, it clogs yours and the Village's sewer systems.

Where does grease come from?

Most of us know that grease as a byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

Meat fats - Lard - Cooking oil - Shortening - Butter
Margarine - Food scraps - Baked goods - Sauces - Dairy products

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the inside of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.

Commercial additives, including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, may pass grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.

Do you know that using:

- Hot water to flush grease down a drain is a waste of hot water? When the hot water contacts the cooler piping, the grease comes out of the solution and sticks to the sewer line.
- Soaps and detergents that claim to dissolve grease may pass it down the sewer line and cause problems elsewhere?
- A garbage disposal does not prevent grease from going down the drain?
- Excessive use of drain cleaners will eventually damage the sewer line resulting in costly repairs.

Why prevent sewer backups:

- Avoid raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home
- Prevent an expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the homeowner (the average cleanup cost is thousands of dollars).
- Reduce potential contact with disease-causing organisms.
- Eliminate the need to temporarily relocate living arrangements.
- Lower cost for operation and maintenance by the Village's sewer department and Heart of the Valley Treatment facility.



LEAF MAINTENANCE

DID YOU KNOW ?

Fallen leaves contribute considerable amounts of phosphorous to our waterways and **one pound of phosphorus can grow up to 500 pounds of algae.**

What Can You Do?

- Mulch leaves in place by making several passes with a power mower. The shredded leaves will provide nutrients back to your lawn;
- Compost your leaves into mulch to place around your vegetables and flowers;
- Spread leaves in garden beds or under shrubs;
- Follow your community leaf collection policies and schedule;
- Learn about your community yard waste disposal practices;
- Put a tarp over leaf piles between pick-up times to prevent them from blowing away;
- Clean leaves and debris from the gutters and storm sewer outlets



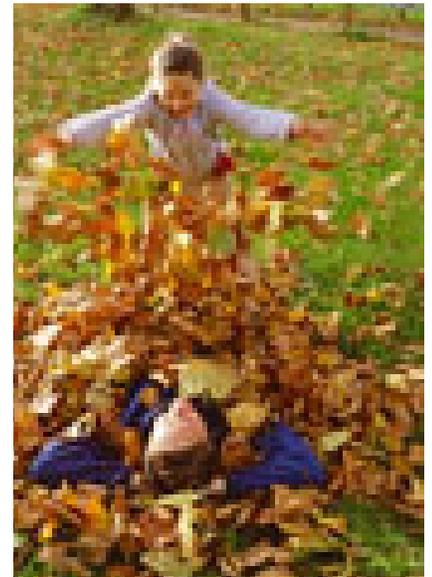
Composting

Cold Composting – requires less maintenance and can take up to 2 years to complete

Hot Composting – requires regular maintenance such as turning and watering. Compost can be reached in 1-3 months

Layer or mix roughly equal amounts of high-nitrogen “Greens” (wet and soft material – grass clippings) and high-carbon “Browns” (dry and woody – dead leaves) to create ideal conditions for your compost pile

Check with your local municipality regarding any regulations or programs about composting



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