

DID YOU KNOW?

The excessive use of fertilizers, improper disposal of leaves & yard clipping, overuse of pesticides/herbicides, and overwatering can result in the polluting of Georgia's streams, river, and lakes.



For additional info:
www.caes.uga.edu
www.georgiaturf.com
www.ent.uga.edu/pest2002
www.griffin.peachnet.edu/urbanag/homepage.shtml

Pesticide Safety
www.ces.uga.edu/pubcd/L430-w.html

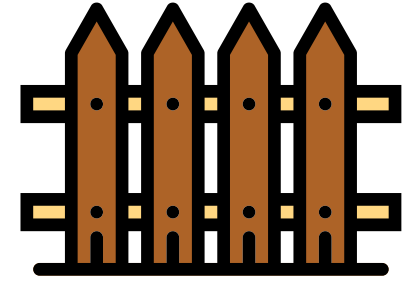
Integrated Pest Management
www.gaipm.org

Pesticide Product Information
www.kellysolutions.com/ga/searchbypest/asp



Clean Water Campaign
40 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
www.cleanwatercampaign.com

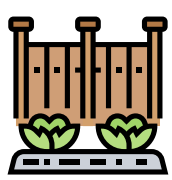
In partnership with University of Georgia,
Cooperative Extension Service, College of
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.



IS YOUR YARD AS GREEN AS YOU THINK IT IS?

TIPS FOR KEEPING POLLUTANTS
FROM ENTERING STREAMS





BASIC PRINCIPLES OF YARD CARE

Minimize water pollution while keeping a healthy and attractive lawn with these suggestions:

DISPOSAL & STORAGE OF YARD CLIPPINGS



- Keep leaves & grass out of streets, drainage ditches, storm drains, and creeks.
- Grass clippings can stay on the lawn, as they are a natural fertilizer.
- Compost plant clippings, leaves, excess grass clippings, & other plant material, or bag them for curbside pickup.
- Protect landscaping materials from wind & rain by storing them under tarps or in a shed.

PLANT & LAWN CARE



- Choose grass & plants with low nutrient & water needs.
- Select native plants [they are adapted to your area & will require less fertilizer & pesticide].
- Only water when plants & grass show signs of stress.

LAWN SPECIFIC TIPS



- Set blade higher on lawn mower. This reduces stress to the grass & helps develop a drought & pest resistant root system.
- Use electric powered lawn equipment instead of gas-powered whenever possible.
- Try not to seed a lawn on a steep slope or in an area that does not drain well. Sod across the slope to protect the soil from erosion & runoff.

COMPOSTING



An alternative to discarding or burning yard waste is composting. Try composting clipped leaves, pine needles, yard trimmings, grass clippings, and other vegetation in your yard. Also use your own pine straw & other clippings for mulch. Try sharing your extra pine needles with a neighbor. Schools & civic groups will sell pine straw as a fundraising effort. Consider donating your remaining pine needles to those organizations.



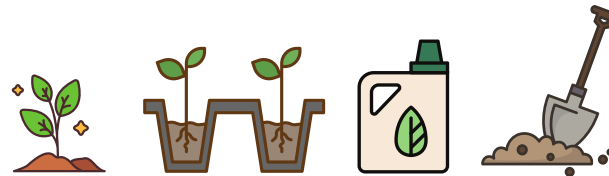
FERTILIZER

If you're looking for ways to keep your yard green without polluting a stream, consider earth-friendly fertilizer options.

Using too much fertilizer may affect water quality in your area. Nutrients from fertilizers - usually phosphates - enter rivers & streams and stimulate the growth of algae. Excessive algae growth harms oxygen levels in lakes & ponds, thus killing fish & other aquatic life.

To help avoid this problem, try these suggestions:

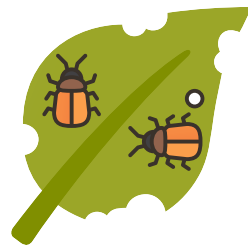
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.
- Test soil for nutrient levels.
 - UGA's Cooperative Extension Service county offices offer a residential soil-testing program; residents can submit a soil sample to be tested.
- Use the tests to choose a fertilizer that adds only the needed nutrients.
- Once vegetation is established, you can reduce the amount of nitrogen you apply.
- Choose a fertilizer with a slow-release form of nitrogen to reduce the potential leaching into groundwater, especially on sandy soils or to reduce loss from runoff.
- Do not apply fertilizer before heavy rain is forecasted.
- Sweep up fertilizer that is spread out on sidewalks instead of using water to wash it off.



Tip: Use iron instead of nitrogen if you're wanting a greener lawn during the summer.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Toxic pesticides can adversely affect your family, neighbors, pets, and the surrounding environment. Pesticide is the generic term for insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides. To reduce pests and minimize pollution, try the following method:



- Read labels and use as directed.
- Store pesticides in covered containers.
- Use prescription flea drops for pets instead of treating a lawn.
- Have weeds, diseases, or insects properly identified before applying a pesticide. Remember to follow the label and use as directed.
- Spot treat only affected areas instead of widespread application [widespread application can kill beneficial insects].
- Control pests & disease by rinsing plants, pruning and hand-picking, setting baits/traps.
- Try non-toxic or the least toxic methods & products first, such as traps or horticultural oils & insecticide soaps.

GOOD BUGS

Some insects actually help keep pests under natural control without causing harm to humans. Determine what bugs are essential to your garden before applying insecticide. Some of the "good bugs" include:

- Lady Beetle
- Assassin Bug
- Earwig
- Green Lacewing
- Big-eyed Bug
- Syrphid Fly



Tip: To control the appearance of your lawn, use alternative methods to pest management as well fertilizer application. Limit the amount of pesticides applied to an area.