

This fact sheet was developed and distributed as a part of the City's Municipal Stormwater Management Plan.

## What is stormwater or non-point source pollution?

It occurs when runoff from a rain event picks up pollutants and deposits them in our waterways. Some examples of these pollutants are eroded soil, used oil, pesticides, fertilizers, pet wastes, and litter.

Contact your local City of Biloxi Stormwater Manager at 228-435-6269 or [stormwater@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:stormwater@biloxi.ms.us)

## Lawn Care



Caring for landscaping and lawns on property that is miles from any water body may seem little to do with water pollution but many of these activities can be quite detrimental to water quality. Normal landscape and lawn maintenance activities can be major contributors to storm drain pollution. Soils, yard wastes, over watering, and chemicals become part of the urban runoff mix that winds its way through streets, gutters and storm drains before entering our rivers, Bays and Gulf.

### Fertilizing & Pesticides

- Use fertilizers sparingly and don't apply before a heavy rainfall.
- Before adding fertilizer have your soil tested so you apply only what is needed.
- Nutrients from fertilizers promote algae blooms and excessive plant growth, which depletes oxygen making it unavailable to fish and other aquatic life.
- Consider leaving lawn clippings on your lawn as a natural fertilizer.
- Pesticides and herbicides don't just kill garden pests, they also harm beneficial insects, aquatic plant and fish that live in our waterways.
- Read all labels and apply according to the manufacturers recommendations.

### Watering

- Avoid overwatering. Don't let water run out into the street.
- Use efficient irrigation methods such as soaker hoses and microsprinklers.
- If you have a spray head sprinkler system, consider adjusting your water method to a cycle and soak. Instead of watering for 15 minutes straight, breakup the session into 5

minute intervals allowing water to soak in before the next application.

### Yard Waste

- Yard waste such as leaves and grass are pollutants in our waterways because during decomposition they absorb oxygen needed by fish and aquatic animals.
- **Never hose down, blow or sweep grass or lawn clippings into the streets or storm drains. They should be swept, bagged and disposed of properly.** Not only are they pollutants in the waterways but they clog storm drain systems causing flooding.
- Consider recycling your yard wastes by starting a compost pile.

