



# GREEN LAWNS DON'T HAVE TO EQUAL GREEN LAKES

Sure, we all want a great lawn. Doing it the right way ensures we get great water, too.

Excess nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, pollute stormwater run-off from urban areas, contributing to the third greatest cause of lake deterioration in the US.



Leaf "litter" and landscape trash accounts for

## 56%

of phosphorus in urban stormwater, not to mention clogging storm drains and increasing debris in our streams and waterways.

Just one pound of fertilizer over-application on the average lawn can equate to

## 34.2 lbs.

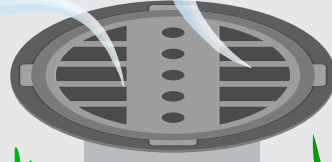
of excess algae growth in streams and lakes...



The amount of phosphorus in grass clippings generated from just one lawn mowing can produce up to

## 100 lbs.

of unwanted algae if it ends up in our lakes and ponds.



...that's

# ONE TON

for every 60 homes!

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

More than 100,000 miles of rivers and streams in the US are polluted with too much nitrogen and phosphorus, a distance that could stretch around the earth **4 times!**



Too much nutrients can cause rapid growth of algae, which removes oxygen from the water, attributing odors, and upsetting the aquatic ecosystem. This also directly leads to a decline in Colorado's drinking water quality.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Dispose Properly

- Compost or bag your leaves and grass clippings
- Don't blow grass clippings into the street
- Hand pull weeds when possible
- Sweep up any spills or overspray of fertilizers on sidewalks or streets



### Turn It Down

- Adjust sprinkler systems based on weather, repair leaks, and reduce runoff
- Don't powerwash debris into the street
- Adjust fertilizer spreaders to apply the correct amount over areas. Fertilizer bags typically provide this information or ask at the local garden center



### Fertilize Effectively

- Fertilizing in the early fall promotes healthy root systems - leading to stronger, more resilient lawns and plants
- Watch the weather and make sure to not apply when storms will be approaching



### Choose Wisely

- Perform soil testing to determine the right amount of fertilizers to apply
- Consider using slow-release fertilizers with water-insoluble or slowly-soluble nutrients
- Planting species that are native to the region can decrease the amount of turf, water, and fertilizer needed



# CSC

COLORADO STORMWATER COUNCIL