



If You Use Too Much Fertilizer On Your Lawn, You Might As Well Fertilize The Lake

Useful Links:

Environmental Protection
Agency

• cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/index.cfm

Kentucky Stormwater
Association

• www.kystormwater.org

Upper Cumberland
Watershed Watch

• www.uppercumberlandriver.org



*Rain washes pollutants
into storm drains which
flow directly into our
streams, creeks and
lakes.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES?

Fertilizers help plants grow by adding nutrients to the soil. Pesticides (including herbicides) or any toxic substances used to kill insects, animals or plants. If fertilizers or pesticides are improperly applied, they can wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and directly to our streams, creeks and lakes. These chemicals can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. Too much fertilizer in runoff can also cause algae to bloom in lakes, which will affect swimming, fishing and boating.

YOU CAN HELP!

- **Always test your soil BEFORE you fertilize. This will take the guesswork out of nutrient issues. It creates a healthy soil environment that will lead to maximum plant growth and healthy lawns.**
- **If you need to use fertilizers, use slow release nitrogen, or low/no phosphorus fertilizers. Excess Phosphorus is not absorbed in the soil, potentially resulting in pollution to our lakes. Always follow instructions.**
- **Avoid applying fertilizer when the soil is saturated with water or just before an intense rain fall. In general, avoid over watering your lawn as well.**

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER?

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to our clean water supply. Clean water provides access to safe drinking water, places for recreation, healthy wildlife habitats and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots, and lawns into storm drains, then directly to our streams, creeks and lakes.

Did you know more than 60% of water pollution comes from things like motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PULASKI COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE GIVES PULASKI COUNTY RESIDENTS UP TO 25 SOIL ANALYSES FREE EACH YEAR?

General Information: Soil tests are best done prior to new planting of vegetable gardens, turfgrass and other perennials like (ornamental or fruit) trees and shrubs. Soil tests can be done at any time of year for established plants. For each sample, about a pint of soil is needed by UK Regulatory Services.

How to take soil samples: Use a trowel, shovel, spade or probe. Numerous soil collections mixed together in a bucket make the best sample. Your job is to provide a good, representative sample of soil to be analyzed. The top inch of each slice should NOT be included in the sample.

Vegetable Gardens: Dig at least 6 to 8 small, random holes in the garden area with a trowel, taking an 8" deep slice of soil from each. Mix these slices in a bucket, place in bag and label.

Turf: Take at least 12 to 18, 4" slices of soil from the turf area. Mix those slices in a bucket, place in a bag, and label.

Trees & Shrubs: At least 6 to 8 slices of soil should be taken as deep as possible (at least 8" to 12" is better) in an area within and slightly beyond the dripline of trees. For shrubs, samples should be taken in a reasonable area surrounding the shrub. Do not include mulch in the sample.

PULASKI COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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