



City of Valdosta Engineering Department *Stormwater Division*

LAWN CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Did you know that everything that enters the stormwater system is discharged directly into the nearest waterbody without being cleaned or treated? While fertilizer can help our lawns, it can harm the local streams. Fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and yard waste can pollute the local waterbodies when they are blown, dumped, or washed into the stormwater system. Here are a few tips on how your lawn care service provider can help protect our waterbodies from pollution:

- Use a mulching blade on the lawn mower
- Do NOT blow grass clippings into the street or down storm drains
- Perform a soil test to determine proper fertilizer application rates
- Use non-toxic products, slow release, and organic fertilizers
- Conserve water, pesticides, and fertilizers by using native and/or adapted plants
- Place mulch around trees and plants
- Follow product instructions on chemical storage, application, and disposal
- Control the use of airborne sprays so they do not land on surfaces where the rain will wash them into the stormwater system
- Never apply chemicals just before a rain event
- Cover stockpiled material such as mulch, soil, or sand
- Use silt fences or a similar barrier during large landscaping projects
- Direct rain water to gardens or lawn areas
- Keep fertilizer applications at least 20 feet away from the edge of a waterbody
- Follow proper procedures if a spill occurs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides, etc)
- NEVER dispose of leaves, limbs or other yard debris near or in a local waterway – haul it away
- When hauling materials on or off site, secure these items so that no debris, dirt, etc is released on to the roadway and into our stormwater system

Did you know, that if the 19,000+ housing units in the City of Valdosta mistakenly allowed just one-quarter pound of granules to wash down the streets into the storm drains, this would be adding 2.4 tons of unwanted pesticides and fertilizers to our water sources? A few simple changes can make a big difference!

To operate in the City of Valdosta, a lawn care service provider MUST have a valid business license. Be aware that both lawn care service providers and homeowners may be issued a citation and/or notice of violation if they discharge yard waste into the stormwater system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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