



CITY OF SIOUX FALLS

Lawn Care Management Guide

Help Protect the Big Sioux River Watershed

Common lawn care management practices can contribute significant amounts of pollution to our local waterways. The following tips for your yard can be used to reduce urban runoff and the negative effects of lawn care on water quality.

Fertilizers, Pesticides and Herbicides

- Consider hand pulling weeds or using non-toxic substitutes to chemical herbicides.
- Consider composting your yard clippings as a natural form of fertilizer.
- Consider using slow-release forms of fertilizer that provide nutrients to plants throughout the growing season with fewer applications.
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers as directed. Do not apply when heavy rain is likely, or overwater after application to avoid runoff.
- Spot treat problem areas instead of broadcast application of pesticides and herbicides.
- Sweep any product off sidewalks and driveways back into the yard. Wash application equipment on the lawn, not on the sidewalk or driveway.



General Lawn Care

- Plant native grasses that are well adapted and have low requirements for water, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- Avoid sweeping or washing leaves and yard clippings into the street and storm drains
- Mow your grass high and often. Leave the clippings on the grass so that their nutrients can be recycled naturally.
- Restore bare patches in your lawn to prevent soil erosion.

Water Management

- Avoid over-watering your lawn and garden. Over-watering is wasteful and can transport excess chemicals and nutrients via runoff from the soil surface. Water your lawn as needed, rather than on a set schedule.
- Adjust your sprinklers to water only the lawn and garden, not the sidewalk, driveway, or street.
- Maintaining higher grass requires less water.
- Redirect downspouts to vegetated areas to allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground.



City of Sioux Falls
SOUTH DAKOTA

**Contact the City of Sioux Falls Public Works
Environmental Division with any questions at 367-8276.**