

MORE ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER



Many Dublin residents use up to **3x more fertilizer** on lawns than is necessary or healthy. Using too much fertilizer is wasteful and can make lawn and local water unsafe for people, pets and children.

Follow these City of Dublin guidelines for healthy lawns and healthy families to maintain a beautiful lawn. Together, our efforts can keep it **Greener in Dublin.**

When we fertilize too much, the excess chemicals go directly into local rivers through storm drains. Many lawn chemicals contain phosphorus and nitrogen, which can turn our local waters green with algae, and that's not the kind of green we want to be. Algae blooms can release toxins into the water. Both the chemicals and resulting algae reduce water quality and can make it unsafe for people, pets and children.

This year, save money and protect our local waterways by following these simple fertilizing guidelines:

- 1** Bookend the summer by fertilizing once at Memorial Day and again at Labor Day. Most yards, even those with clay soil, don't need more than two applications of fertilizer each year, and even the worst soils usually don't require more than three applications
- 2** If you hire a landscape company, commit to a limited fertilizer schedule and stand firm against using more applications than necessary.
- 3** Use phosphorus-free fertilizer. High concentrations of phosphorus run-off from our lawns and can pollute water, create algae and kill fish. Nutrient information is included on fertilizer labels.
- 4** Consider using organic fertilizers. There are several varieties available to purchase. You can also fertilize for free by returning grass clippings and mulched leaves to your lawn.

Buffers and Native Plants

Cut yourself a break and cut less grass! While stormwater ponds are often surrounded by grass, mowing right to the water's edge compacts the soil, reduces root growth and commonly leads to bank erosion. Establishing a simple, unmown buffer zone around the perimeter of the pond (4-10 feet wide) can prevent erosion, reduce maintenance time and costs and even help deter Canada geese from taking up residence.



Add native plants as a buffer, but refrain from planting woody vegetation near stormwater ponds. To further enhance your buffer, consider adding a chemical-free zone where no pesticides or fertilizers will be used.

By fertilizing and maintaining our lawns responsibly, we can keep Dublin's lawns and waterways beautiful, safe and healthy.

