

Keep Yard Waste Out of Storm Drains

- Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard waste hold nitrogen and phosphorus—which are two of the main nutrients found in fertilizers
- When these nutrients enter water ways they can create algae blooms and dead zones which can lead to dead fish and aquatic plants
- Storm drains lead directly into rivers, creeks, streams, and lakes—the very same ones we use as water supplies
- Leaving grass clippings on your yard can help your lawn grow more healthy (working as a fertilizer)



Report Illicit Discharges

If you see someone putting something into a storm drain that shouldn't be there, please contact:

Jack.cline@wpcog.org | 828.485.4222

Basic Principles of Yard Care

Disposal and Storage of Yard Clippings

- Keep leaves and grass out of streets, drainage ditches, storm drains, and creeks
- Grass clippings can stay on your lawn and they work as a natural fertilizer
- Compost plant clippings, leaves, excess grass clippings and other plant material - or bag them for curbside pickup.
- Protect landscaping materials from wind and rain by storing them under a tarp or inside



Plant and Lawn Care

- Try not to seed a lawn on steep slopes—Use sod instead to prevent erosion
- Choose grass and plant types that grow well in the piedmont region (zone 7a or 7b)
- Set the mower blade higher. This reduces stress to your lawn and makes it more resistant to pests, drought, and erosion



Did you know...

- If lawns were classified as a crop, it would rank as the fifth-largest in the country (based on area)
- Clover takes nitrogen from the air and feeds your soil, around 30% of a lawns yearly requirement
- Grass seed isn't always the best way to prevent erosion. On steep slopes grass sod, erosion matting, mulch, and rip-rap can help much more than seed.
- Similarly rooted plants such as trees and shrubs are important for holding your soil in place
- Not every lawn can be perfect, some areas have soils, sun exposure, and water amounts that can limit the health of your lawn

