

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

WATER MATTERS

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Green Landscaping

Protecting water quality through responsible lawn and garden care is not something every homeowner considers when landscaping and maintaining his or her yard. But the flow of water does not obey your property lines. Water that flows onto and off of your land is part of a watershed that inevitably reaches a stream or river. If you knew that a child was playing in that stream, or that the water reaching that river would be used for your community's water supply, would it change the way you cared for your land? You can ensure that the water that nourishes your land does not pollute the river it reaches. Small changes in the way you maintain your lawn and garden can make a BIG impact in water quality. Practicing responsible lawn care today can protect our water quality tomorrow.

What can you do to protect water quality this spring?

- **Test your soil** for nutrients and pH before planting. Then apply only the chemicals that are necessary to amend your soil.
- **Use Biosolids & Compost** to amend your soil. These are good for water quality and your wallet. You can make compost at home and biosolids can be obtained for free at the Lake Avenue Biosolids and Yardwaste Recycling Facility.
- **Choose Native Plants** which are well suited to their area and usually require less water, fertilizer and pesticides than non-native species.
- **Conserving Water** means that there is less chance of chemical runoff into our stormdrains and rivers. Water deeply in the morning, but avoid over-watering.