

## A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO LAWN CARE

Using healthy lawn care practices is one step toward cleaner rivers and lakes — even if you don't have waterfront property. For example, a lot of sediment and algae problems can be relieved by keeping lawn clippings out of street catch basins. Instead, sweep them back on your lawn. Clippings are mostly water, and break down quickly to return valuable nutrients to the soil. Local municipalities are doing their part by collecting yard waste or accepting it at drop-off locations. Do your part by preventing the problems at the source!

### Tips for Mowing

Taller grass means a healthier lawn, and it's easy to take care of! Set your mower blade to leave grass about three inches tall. Taller grass cools the soil, needs less water and shades out weed growth. It's also more insect and disease resistant. Vary the direction of lawn mowing periodically to prevent wear patterns and soil compaction.

### Tired of raking your leaves? Mow 'em!

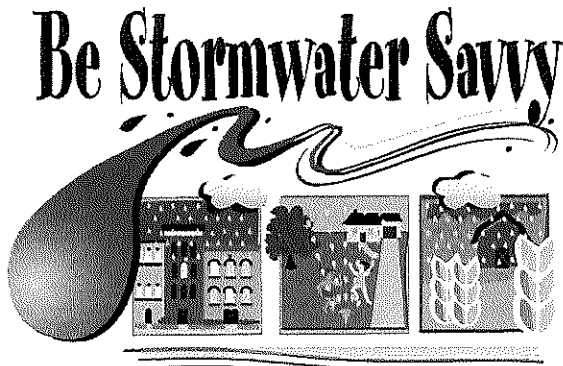
Mow tree leaves in the autumn instead of raking and bagging — just raise your mower height to accommodate! After a couple of passes with the mower, leaf pieces will slowly sift down through turf. It's an excellent way to return nutrients to the soil, and you can use them as mulch in your garden too!

### Tips for Watering

Excessive watering is wasteful! Conserve water by using only what your lawn needs.

- 15-20 minutes of sprinkling daily is better than a few heavy waterings throughout the week, according to Michigan State University research.
- If daily watering is impractical, 30-40 minutes of watering every other day is sufficient.
- Make sure your sprinkler is watering your lawn — not your driveway or sidewalk!

For more information, visit our website at:



Don't let a good drop go bad!