







## Non-Point Source Pollution Why the Concern?

Non-point source pollution is a fancy term for polluted storm water run off. Polluted run off is our nation's greatest threat to clean water!

As rain and melting snow flow across the land, pollution particles are picked up and carried to our lakes and streams.

Excess nutrients, sediment, pesticides, and other pollutants

can lead to problems including:

-  Weed choked lakes
-  Muddy streams and ponds
-  Fish kills
-  Loss of habitat for aquatic life
-  Higher sewer and water bills
-  Decrease in property values



## Is My Yard a Source of Pollution?

**Healthy** lawns add beauty and value to our homes and can reduce erosion, filter run off, and encourage that run off to soak into the ground. Keeping lawns healthy may require the use of fertilizers. But over fertilizing your lawn can be harmful for our lakes and streams and can drain your wallet.

Studies have shown that 70% of all lawns are regularly fertilized whether they need it or not! Here are some things to keep in mind when caring for your lawn and landscape.

- Have your soil tested to determine the fertilizer needs of your lawn. (Remember more is not always better!)
- Practice good lawn mowing techniques, mowing high and often.
- Leave clippings on your lawn- They are a natural and free source of nutrients!
- Annual core aeration promotes good root development and water infiltration.
- Seed bare areas and cover with mulch to keep soil protected and prevent erosion.
- Sweep all fertilizer and grass clippings off paved areas and put back onto your lawn.



**Don't Guess  
Soil Test!**

## Simple Lawn and Landscape Tips

- Do **not** apply chemicals adjacent to storm sewers, ponds, lakes or streams.
- Leave a natural (not mowed) buffer between water bodies and lawn areas to help filter pollutants before they enter your lake or stream.
- Plant grasses that are best suited for our area: Kentucky Blue Grass, Fine Fescue, and Red Fescue (shade.)
- Choose landscape plants that have low fertilizer and water needs. Native plants are a good choice. Remember- Proper plant selection for your site is critical!
- Healthy trees and shrubs do not require annual fertilizer applications. Over fertilizing produces more growth requiring additional pruning and maintenance.



# Native Landscape Plants

## **TREES**

Red Maple and Sugar Maple  
Pin Oak, Scarlet Oak, and Black Oak

Black Walnut

White Ash

Ohio Buckeye

River Birch

Flowering Dogwood

Eastern Red Bud

Serviceberry

Washington Hawthorn

White Pine

Canadian Hemlock

## **SHRUBS**

Arrowwood

Nannyberry

Gray, Silky, and Red Osier Dogwoods

Pussy Willow

Witch Hazel

Button Bush

Spice Bush

Winterberry

Common Juniper

## **FLOWERS**

Purple Coneflower

Butterfly Weed

Tall Larkspur

Black Eyed-Susan

Ox-Eye Daisy

Cardinal Flower

Blue Lobelia

Evening Primrose

Wild Columbine

Wild Geranium

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## **Non-Point Source Pollution and You**



## **Lawn Care and Landscape Tips for Clean Water**