

**For a healthy, beautiful yard
with minimum effects on water quality,
consider these ideas:**



Proper mowing at 3-4 inches high (or the highest setting on your mower) results in 80% fewer weeds and thicker turf that doesn't require chemical inputs. Mowing height is one of the biggest factors in creating a healthy lawn. When grass is cut tall, it conserves moisture and minimizes weed seed germination.

Consider having a "good enough" lawn... when making lawn care decisions. It doesn't have to look perfect to be healthy and meet the needs of your family.



Use mole traps or borrow a good dog for mole control. Using insecticide for grubs is totally ineffective for mole control.

Don't bag your grass clippings. They can contribute much of the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium your lawn needs.

Clover is your yard's friend! Instead of treating to prevent it, think of clover as free fertilizer. **Clover takes nitrogen** from the air and feeds your soil! It can provide up to 30% of a lawn's yearly nitrogen requirement.



Did you know....

- A watershed-friendly lawn care demonstration site is located at Hickem Cabin in Rock Bridge State Park (upper parking lot).
- Shelter Gardens uses environmentally friendly lawn care practices on its turf and gardens.
- Even the White House lawn is "going green." Staff there are using gardening and landscaping practices designed to protect the environment and minimize polluted runoff.
- Some golf courses are changing their approach to stormwater. MU's A.L. Gustin golf course has been certified by Audubon International as watershed-friendly for their efforts to improve water quality, use native plants and reduce chemical use.

Why Have a Show-Me Yard?

Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods is an educational effort to inform landowners & businesses about ways they can be more environmentally responsible with their lawn and landscape practices. A Show-Me Yard can help protect Missouri's lakes and rivers for future generations.

What Does My Yard Have to do With Healthy Streams?

- If lawns were classified as a crop, it would rank as the fifth-largest in the country, based on area.
- Homeowners use ten times more chemicals per acre than farmers.
- 67,000,000 lbs. of synthetic pesticides are used on U.S. lawns.
- 30-60% of urban fresh water is used for watering lawns.*

*Source: Borman et al. *Redesigning the American Lawn*, Yale University Press, 2001.



Green Lawns / Blue Waters

Having Both the Smart Way

The EPA now considers stormwater runoff from yards, streets, parking lots and other urban areas to be one of the most significant sources of contamination in our nation's waters.

Homeowners use more chemicals per acre on lawns than farmers use on crops. Some of these chemicals are finding their way to our streams.

All stormwater flows directly from gutters and storm drains straight to streams and is not treated in any way. This means our lawn and garden chemicals have the potential to cause fish kills and harm other living things.