

# Spring Lawn Care Tip Sheet



[www.cleanwatermn.org](http://www.cleanwatermn.org)  
Town of Southeast  
[www.southeast-ny-gov](http://www.southeast-ny-gov)



Melting snow and spring rains means runoff and that runoff is funneling down our streets into storm sewers carrying it right to our lakes, streams and wetlands.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP PROTECT OUR WATERSHED?

### Keep Your Spring Runoff Clean!

- Remove pet waste and trash from streets, sidewalks and driveways - put it in the trash.
- Clean gutters regularly.
- Put leaves in your compost pile or bag it for collection.
- Sweep up road dirt and put it in the garbage.

### Restore Your Lawn!

- Remove debris from the winter and place in garbage or bag it for collection.
- Re-seed bare spots in your lawn and cover with straw to protect from sun and birds as well as water regularly to keep the area moist.
- Control soil-erosion around your home. Bare soil areas tend to wash away easily with rain and carry phosphorus with it. Keep your soil covered with mulch or vegetation.

### Keep Lawn Care Products Out of Runoff!

- Use phosphorus-free fertilizer or better yet leave the clippings from lawn mowing on your grass. They provide an excellent source of fertilization and protect your grass from sunburn.
- Always read and follow label directions if you must use a lawn care product and dispose of their containers properly.
- Don't apply lawn care products to frozen ground - wait until the grass starts growing.
- Sweep up and re-use any lawn care products that fall on streets, sidewalks, and driveways.

