You may be fertilizing more than your grass.

The storm drain in your street is a link to our lakes and rivers. The choices you make when caring for your lawn directly affect water quality.

A common cause of dilute and non-pollutant phosphorus runoff is phosphorus in the fertilizer you use. However, phosphorus is a nutrient that is important for grass growth, and lakes and rivers can use all the help they can get to maintain their health.

Phosphorus in lakes and rivers is a cause of concern. Phosphorus stimulates the growth of algae in lakes and rivers, which can lead to a build-up of algae that crowds out other water plants and reduces oxygen available to fish. The result is unattractive, foul-smelling water that is bad for fish, wildlife, and humans.

Nitrogen, not phosphorus, greens up grass. Phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer still contains nitrogen, the plant nutrient that greens up grass.

To keep our lakes and rivers healthy, we need to manage phosphorus carefully. By doing so, you can help reduce phosphorus runoff from lawn fertilizers and other sources.
Anything that enters a storm drain goes to a local lake or river. It does not go to a waste water treatment facility.

Do you know you live on waterfront property? You do if there is a storm drain nearby! Storm drains carry runoff water to local lakes and rivers. Whatever washes off your yard and street can pollute these waters. That includes lawn fertilizer, grass clippings, pet waste, and tree leaves and seeds – all sources of phosphorus, the plant nutrient that turns lakes and rivers green with algae.

Keep your runoff clean!

Keep our lakes and rivers clean!

**REMOVE LEAVES FROM THE STREET**
- Make lawn, yard, compost and garden waste 
  - Collected on the site to be collected
- Compost, bag for collection, or return to your compost program

**PREVENT EROSION**
- Phosphorus attaches to soil
  - Sweep surface wastes into the street

**FERTILIZE THE LAWN, NOT THE LAKE**
- Choose a zero-phosphorus fertilizer
  - Avoid over-fertilization and 
    - Soil tests show a healthy soil
  - If you think your lawn needs phosphorus, test your soil first. For information call 612-624-2200, message 468, or visit soiltest.coafs.umn.edu.
  - Spilled fertilizer off paved surfaces

**CLEAN UP AFTER PETS**
- Scoop the poop
  - Pet waste contains phosphorus
  - Don’t feed the geese

**KEEP THE PAVEMENT CLEAN**
- Rake leaves, seeds and grass clippings out of the street and gutter.
  - Compost on site, bag for collection, or take to community compost program.

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  - Sweep surface wastes into the street

- Sweep up grass clippings, soil, and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks, and streets.
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