

Do Your Part in Keeping Dover Clean

A clean environment is necessary for the health of our community.

While a single lawn may seem insignificant, the combined effect of maintaining all green surfaces in our community may have detrimental side effects. It is important to practice BMPs in lawn care to protect the health of our environment as well as the water quality of Silver Lake, Saint Jones River, and ultimately the Delaware Bay.

What are BMPs and Why do we Need Them?

BMP stands for Best Management Practices. It is necessary to implement BMPs to help manage stormwater runoff in order to prevent pollutants from reaching our waterways and groundwater.

One of the most problematic pollutants in our water is excess nutrients. Excess nutrients lower the oxygen level in our waterways and can lead to fish kills. Landscaping and lawn care activities have the potential to greatly impact the level of nutrients in our waters. The BMPs described in this brochure are designed to reduce pollution and allow Dover to continue its tradition of beautiful landscapes.

Remember the 4 R's of Fertilizer Use:

Right source

Right rate

Right time

Right place



For More Information:

For more information on BMPs for lawn care and landscaping, contact the Nutrient Management Program at the Delaware Department of Agriculture at (302) 698-4558 or check out their publication at <http://dda.delaware.gov/nutrients/forms/BMPnonagforprinter.pdf>

For more information on planning issues, contact the Dover Planning Office at (302)736-7196

E-mail us at WesleyEnviSci@gmail.com with any questions that arise from reading this brochure.

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PERSONAL LANDSCAPING AND LAWN CARE

Yard Care and Maintenance to Protect our Waterways



City of Dover
and

Wesley College

Fertilizer BMPs

Summarized as the “4 R’s”:

Right source, Right rate, Right time,
and Right place

- ④ Do not apply fertilizer when heavy rainfall is expected
- ④ Be sure to use the proper product for the current situation. It is very important to solve the problem at hand using the proper treatment to avoid soil and water degradation.
- ④ Learn soil sampling techniques to help determine what your lawn really needs.
 - ④ **Fertilize last!** Solve other soil deficiencies **first** such as; soil pH, shade, overwatering, or other stresses. Make sure it is fertilizer that your lawn needs **BEFORE** application.
- ④ If applying fertilizer near water, be sure to leave a 10-foot ring of responsibility near water body or impervious surface.
- ④ Sweep any fertilizer from impervious surfaces such as driveways, streets, and sidewalks back into vegetated area.
- ④ Be sure to apply the correct amount of fertilizer. **Do not** apply fertilizer in excess!
- ④ When fertilizing, water the selected area to avoid loss of Nitrogen and increase uptake efficiency.

This will save you \$\$
- ④ Maintain healthy grass to minimize the need for fertilizer

Irrigation BMPs

- ④ When irrigating be sure that you do not apply water in excess. Only use the amount of water that your lawn can *easily* absorb
- ④ Fertilizers, herbicides, and other chemicals that must be watered should be applied at a time that coincides with your routine lawn irrigation.
- ④ Use proper lawn care techniques to reduce the irrigation requirement.
- ④ When planting plants, group them based on similar water requirements.
- ④ Keep timed water systems monitored and be sure that they are timed appropriately based upon the season.

Pesticide BMPs

- ④ Develop and implement a quality IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Program.
- ④ Educate yourself on pest identification and pesticide selection techniques if you personally apply pesticides to your lawn.
- ④ Choose the most appropriate product to solve your problem or pest.
- ④ When mixing pesticides only use the amount needed to avoid disposal problems and to protect the organisms you wish to keep.
- ④ Spot treat pests when possible.
- ④ Read and follow all label instructions and note any groundwater advisories.

Mowing BMPs

- ④ The highest acceptable mowing height, which varies depending on type of grass should be used.

This is typically 2.5-3 inches.

- ④ Do not remove more than 1/3 of the foliage at one time.
- ④ Remove clippings from impervious surface such as driveways, sidewalks, and streets.
- ④ Do not direct clippings into bodies of water.
- ④ Do not remove clippings from the lawn. If clumping occurs, distribute clippings by re-mowing or raking. If you do collect your clippings **compost** them.

Grass Recycling

- ④ Practice grass recycling to return nutrients to the soil
- ④ Grass recycling reduces the need for fertilizer and irrigation.
- ④ Grass recycling is when one mows their lawn and does not remove the clippings. Grass clippings left on a lawn will quickly decompose and add nutrients to help fertilize your lawn.
- ④ If you compost and need clippings as green material, alternate using the clippings in your compost bin and leaving them on the lawn.

