

You Are the Solution to Water Pollution

Protecting water quality through responsible lawn and garden care is not something every homeowner considers when landscaping and maintaining his or her yard. But the flow of water does not obey your property lines. Water that flows onto and off of your land is part of a watershed that inevitably reaches a stream or river. If you knew that a child was playing in that stream, or that the water reaching that river would be used for your community's water supply, would it change the way you cared for your land? You can ensure that the water that nourishes your land does not pollute the river it reaches. Small changes in the way you maintain your lawn and garden can make a BIG impact in water quality. Practicing responsible lawn care today can protect our water quality tomorrow.

Who To Contact

The Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Phone: 260-484-5848 ext. 111
Fax: 260-484-5080

Reduce Impervious Surfaces

Impervious surfaces, such as roofs, driveways, and concrete patios, do not allow rainwater to filter back into the soil. Try incorporating a surface into your lawn or garden area that allows the rain water to reach the soil, rather than run into the storm sewers during a heavy rain. Instead of concrete patios, asphalt driveways, and paved paths, try wood decks, gravel or pervious asphalt driveways, and mulched paths. Instead of diverting stormwater to drains, collect the water in rain barrels for later use in your garden! It's easy to be a "green gardener."

☞ Recipe for Compost ☞

Mix together and moisten and turn occasionally until dark and crumbly (several weeks to a year):

1 part "green"= fresh grass clippings, manure, garden plants, and fruit and vegetable scraps (no meat, dairy, or fat)

3 parts "brown"= dried leaves and plants, branches, and woody materials

Use the compost around trees, shrubs, perennials, and even house plants to deter weeds, improve soil structure and retain moisture.

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Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

GREEN LANDSCAPING



A Reference Guide for Homeowners



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What Can I Do?

Test Your Soil

To determine what kind of care your lawn and garden need, you must first determine what type of soil you have! You can avoid spending excess time and money on your yard by having the soil tested for nutrients and pH. Correcting a problem before planting is much simpler and cheaper than afterwards. Once your yard is established, continue to take periodic soil samples. You can purchase a home test for pH, nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium at a garden center. You can also contact a commercial testing service if you would like more detailed or special tests.

Use Biosolids & Compost

Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic materials, resulting from the wastewater treatment process, which can be applied as fertilizer. Applying biosolids to land before planting grass or a garden can provide nutrients vital to plant growth and reduce the amount of chemical fertilizers needed. Biosolids are available at the Lake Ave. biosolids facility (*information located at right*).

Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic matter by microorganisms into a humus-like product. Compost can enhance soil texture, increase the ability of the soil to absorb air and water (thus using less water), suppress weed growth, decrease erosion, & reduce the need to apply fertilizers. With all of these benefits, how can you afford to not use biosolids and compost?

The average 1-acre lawn requires \$700 & 40 hours of work a year to maintain!!!

Choose Native Plants

Native plants are well-suited to their area. They provide food and shelter for wildlife while usually requiring less water, fertilizer and pesticides than non-native species. Their lower maintenance and high conservation value make them a good choice for an environmentally conscious homeowner. Ask your local garden center for some native plant choices.

Conserve Water

Using less water means less chemical runoff and soil erosion. Water deeply to promote deep root growth, and water in the early morning to avoid evaporation.

Q: What do I do with the yard waste my healthy, environmentally friendly lawn has created?

A: RECYCLE it at home or at a yardwaste compost site!

Biosolids, Lime, & Yard Waste Recycling
6202 Lake Avenue 260-749-8040
OPEN: April 1- Nov. 30, M-Sat 8am-6pm
Sun Noon-6pm
Dec. 1- March 31, Mon-Fri 8am-2pm
Closed Holidays

National Serv-All
6231 MacBeth Road 260-747-4117
OPEN:
Monday- Friday: 8am-4pm
Saturday: 8am- Noon
Closed Sundays & Holidays

Materials Accepted	Not Accepted
Garden Waste	Construction Debris
Leaves	Cement
Grass	Dirt
Brush	Fruit from Trees
Prunings	Lumber
Weeds	Railroad Ties
Vines	Wood Fencing