

Don't Feed The Lake!

Day to day lawncare practices such as fertilizing and applying pesticides can have an adverse effect on local waterways if not done with care. Stormwater runoff from yards enters storm drains and nearby creeks carrying pollutants without any treatment.

Follow the steps on the front and back of this card to protect our waterways.

Soil Test

Test your soil every two to three years to determine the pH and nutrient needs of your yard.

Soil test kits are available at Chesterfield County libraries and the Chesterfield Cooperative Extension office. 804-751-4401



— Department of —
**ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING**



chesterfield.gov 804-748-1035

Providing a **FIRST CHOICE** community
through excellence in public service

Fertilizer

Follow the recommendations of your soil test. It will determine the amount and type of fertilizer your lawn needs and when to apply it. It will also recommend how much lime you need to achieve proper soil pH.

Unless recommended by your soil test, avoid spring fertilization which can lead to shallow roots. Deep-rooted lawns are more tolerant to drought and disease.

If possible, choose a slow release fertilizer that contains water-insoluble nitrogen (WIN) which is less likely to runoff during rain events.

Watering and Mowing

Most lawns need 1 to 1 ½ inches of water per week. Water in the morning or evening to avoid evaporation and disease. Use a rain gauge to measure how much water your lawn receives.

Cool season grasses should be mowed to a height of 2 to 3 inches. Warm season grasses should be mowed to a height of 1 to 1 ½ inches. Frequent mowing to the proper height promotes deep root growth.

Pesticides and Herbicides

Identify the pest or weed before applying chemicals. The Chesterfield County Extension office can help you identify pests, weeds and diseases.

Use the right product for the problem and use the least toxic option available.

Read the label completely before applying pesticides and herbicides.
FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS.

Avoid applying herbicides and pesticides prior to a rain event to reduce runoff. Never apply near water or when it is windy to avoid overspray into unintended areas.

Pesticides and herbicides should never be poured down the drain or put in the trash. Unused products can be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste area at the Chesterfield County Convenience Centers.
804-748-1297