GREEN LAWNS
CLEAN WATERS
THE ECOLOGICAL APPROACH

TIPSHEET

**Go Green Lawncare**

**Fertilize in Fall for Best Results**
- Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn
- Be patient in the spring - wait until May to fertilize
- Don’t fertilize if the ground is frozen or saturated with water
- Don’t guess, soil test for proper fertilizer recommendations

**Mow High - Recycle Clippings**
- Mow at least 3” high
- Return clippings to recycle nutrients
- Sweep or blow clippings from walks and driveways onto the lawn
- Taller grass crowds out weeds and promotes deeper roots
- Deeper roots help the lawn survive droughts

**Choose Lawn-Type Fertilizers**
- Choose lawn fertilizers with low or no phosphorus (the middle number) and follow the directions
- Avoid using “triple” products (e.g. 12-12-12)
- Confirm spreader setting before applying

**Clean Up - Avoid Surface Water**
- Maintain a NO APPLICATION zone near lakes, rivers, streams and storm drains
- Never discharge clippings near lakes, rivers, streams or drains
- Sweep fertilizer granules from walks and driveways onto the lawn
- Wash your spreader on the grass

**Water Smart**
- Don’t soak your lawn and avoid night watering
- Watering should not produce puddles; lighter, more frequent watering is best
- Brown lawns are OK; dormancy is a natural response to drought, however, some water may be necessary during an extended drought of more than a month
- Following Go Green Lawncare Tips will reduce the amount of water your lawn needs

For more lawn tips see: WWW.TURF.MSU.EDU

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