### "Green" Grass

# An urban nutrient management planning program





Virginia Tech · Virginia State University



### Problems



### Problems



- Poor turf management leads to sediment and nutrients in the waterways
- Excess pet waste also contributes to water quality problems
- Fertilizing at the wrong time of year
- Using fertilizer as a deicer



Virginia cultivates 1,702,000 acres of lawn

### History

- In 2009 Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
- Nutrient Management for agricultural land



## Built a program

- John Marshall SWCD
- Borrowed from Extension in Prince William
- Stared on a trial basis in 2009
- Soil test
- Evaluate turf quality and type
- Measure area of turf
- Recommend fertilizer and lime and timing
- General information packet
- DCR Certified Urban Nutrient Management Plan Writer



### **Extension Master Gardeners**



### Publicity

• Brochure



### • Farmers Market



Do you want:

- A healthy disease resistant lawn?
- To reduce your lawn maintenance costs?
- To help protect your neighborhood streams and lakes?

Benefits of joining the program:

 A Virginia Cooperative Extension volunteer will measure your lawn area and collect a soil sample for analysis

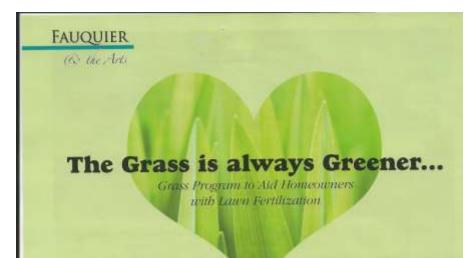


- You will receive a customized lime and fertilizer plan for your lawn
- You will receive the "Green" Grass Practices handbook For Fauguier County
- The extension office will help you with your lawn maintenance and fertilization questions

For more information call 540-341-7950 × 0 or email tohlwile@vt.edu



### Warrenton Lifestyle Magazine



There is still time this optime to get: stantal couring a green outs on your links slice of land. Don't be envious of your neighbor's lown this war, get a head start by taking advantage of the "Green" Gran Program Droaght to Fanguier County residents by the Virstnia Cooperative Extension in Fanquier County and the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District, this program creates matricest management plans for homeowners. It eachings the frequency and amouerof fertilizer as well as other coerstal mitments specific to their lawn. And it unly costs 5212

Healthue turf, moments' surings, and the knowledge that the near-series covernate are applied to their lown are certainly betweened to any homeowner. While horing a benatitud lower is important to commonly neighbories, becoming educated on proper lown case practices will holp generat the limited wome neighby in our community.

Originally invested to help farmers munage animal water, norment and sediment rows if from fields, the "Group" Gross Trogeron works with homeowners to pennone multir gools. By laying tarigrass growns matage the extremes on their lown, harmid model that can cool up in our searchors is remnand.

Farmers have accordy made progress in lowering the amount of mitricrity. counting our waterways, but residential and urban mariterin are continuing us increase. Homeowners add to partient runoff by over femiliang their lawns. and adding supplements that ment meeded. Numieur tunoff causes stress to underwater plant and animal life and can cause almie blooms that can be deadly to tish. Pet staste contributes to the annual of bachetta in streams. lowering the quality of scatter and increasing the likelihood of disease. when people come in connet with these waterways.

Treat your home and your community to a healthy arean and environmountally concross lawn this year by using the "Singer" Grass Program.

### Why You Should Participate:

 A healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds, insects or disease.

 Turtgrass is a high maintenance plant and to grow grass well it is important to know its needs.

 Extension volunteers will collect a soil sample and measure your total lawn area.

 You will receive a lawn care handbook and a customized lime and fertilizer plan for your lawn.

 You will learn the proper turf fertilization, maintenance practices, and timing to prevent problems.



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### Facts



- Started in 2009 and did 20 lawns
- Doing almost 100
  Nutrient
  Management plans
  each year now.

Other Potomac Round Table Communities with Urban Nutrient Management Programs

- Prince William 1990
- Loudoun 2009
- Fairfax 2011
- Stafford 2012

### Challenges



- Main barrier is lack of knowledge of the program
- Apathy Don't do anything
- Someone else takes care of the lawn
- Volunteer management
- Environmental concerns of turf
- Communication

### Goals

- Create a on-line application
- Create database that will generate customized report to clients
- Submit all plans to DCR
- Contribute to the storm water management goals that the town of Warrenton and Fauquier County have set

### Questions and other ideas?

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