

“Green” Grass

An urban nutrient management
planning program



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
- Started 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

How to make your lawn "GREEN"?


- G** - "GREEN" lawn practices
- R** - Right fertilizer, right time
- E** - Evaluation of your lawn
- E** - Enhance your soils
- N** - New maintenance plan



"GREEN" lawns...


- Are environmentally responsible!
- Are more drought tolerant!
- Require less maintenance!
- Protect local drinking water!
- Protect your neighborhood streams, lakes, and ponds!

For more assistance with lawn care, plant problems, or for gardening tips and questions, please contact us! Call 540-341-7950 ext. 1 or email tohlwile@vt.edu. For more information on free classes or publications on environmental related topics or visit our websites www.ext.vt.edu/ Or www.fc-mg.org




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Virginia Cooperative Extension




JOHN MARSHALL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

"Green" Grass Lawn Program



Let us help you "Green" your lawn!

Make the best use of valuable resources,
Your time & money!

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Fauquier Office
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Warrenton, VA 20186
Phone: 540-341-7950
Fax: 540-349-1792

- Farmers Market

"Green" Grass Lawn Program



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 Fauquier County
- The extension office will help you with your lawn maintenance and fertilization questions



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

Warrenton Lifestyle Magazine

FAUQUIER

(to) the Arts

The Grass is always Greener...

*Grass Program to Aid Homeowners
with Lawn Fertilization*

There is still time this spring to get started creating a green oasis on your little slice of land. Don't be envious of your neighbor's lawn this year, get a head start by taking advantage of the "Green" Grass Program. Insight to Fauquier County residents by the Virginia Cooperative Extension in Fauquier County and the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District, this program creates nutrient management plans for homeowners. It outlines the frequency and amount of fertilizer as well as other essential nutrients specific to their lawn. And it only costs \$20!

Healthier turf, monetary savings, and the knowledge that the necessary nutrients are applied to their lawn are certainly beneficial to any homeowner. While having a beautiful lawn is important to community aesthetics, becoming educated on proper lawn care practices will help protect the limited water supply in our community.

Originally intended to help farmers manage animal waste, nutrient and

sediment runoff from fields, the "Green" Grass Program works with homeowners to promote similar goals. By having turfgrass growers manage the nutrients on their lawn, harmful runoff that can end up in our waterways is minimized.

Farmers have actively made progress in lowering the amount of nutrients entering our waterways, but residential and urban nutrients are continuing to increase. Homeowners add to nutrient runoff by over-fertilizing their lawns and adding supplements that aren't needed. Nutrient runoff causes stress to underwater plants and animal life and can cause algae blooms that can be deadly to fish. Pet waste contributes to the amount of bacteria in streams, lowering the quality of water and increasing the likelihood of disease when people come in contact with these waterways.

Treat your home and your community to a healthy green and environmentally conscious lawn this year by using the "Green" Grass Program.

Why You Should Participate:

1. A healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds, insects or disease.
2. Turfgrass is a high maintenance plant and to grow grass well it is important to know its needs.
3. Extension volunteers will collect a soil sample and measure your total lawn area.
4. You will receive a lawn care handbook and a customized lime and fertilizer plan for your lawn.
5. You will learn the proper turf fertilization, maintenance practices, and timing to prevent problems.
6. It's only \$20!



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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