

Did you know that your landscape practices could impact our local waterways?

The excessive use of chemicals including fertilizers and pesticides, improper disposal of yard clippings and over watering can pollute our rivers, lakes and streams. Follow this guide and be the solution to water pollution!

The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension County offices
offer low cost soil-testing kits.

www.extension.uga.edu



The Clean Water Campaign

The Clean Water Campaign is a collaborative multi-agency education and outreach effort coordinated by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District for the 15-county Metro Atlanta area. The Clean Water Campaign's mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions.



The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District serves as the water planning organization for the greater metropolitan Atlanta area, which encompasses the following counties and their respective municipalities: Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale.

Clean Water Campaign
www.cleanwatercampaign.com

Is Your Yard As Green As You Think?





Overall Yard Care

- ◆ Rainwater is the only thing that should enter drainage ditches and storm drains.
- ◆ Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They are a natural fertilizer.
- ◆ Compost plant clippings, leaves and other plant material or bag them for curbside pickup.
- ◆ Choose native grass and plants that require less fertilizer and water.
- ◆ Cluster plants based on their needs and your yard's unique micro-ecosystem.
- ◆ Use only what you need! This goes for water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- ◆ Plant a variety of native plants and ones that attract beneficial insects and pollinators.

Watering and Irrigation

- ◆ Only water plants when necessary. Most outdoor plants only need an inch of water a week.
 - If you walk across your lawn and the blades don't spring back, consider watering the lawn.
 - For trees and shrubs, use a moisture probe. Water the top two to four inches of soil when the probe indicates the soil is dry.
 - Use an auto-shut off hose nozzle or watering can to hand water plants that are thirstier.
- ◆ Water before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. to avoid the hottest part of the day.
- ◆ Water deeply using several short cycles to prevent run off. Georgia's clay soils can only absorb ½ inch of water per hour before runoff occurs.
- ◆ Inspect and adjust your irrigation system regularly to ensure that runoff is not occurring. For information on how to calculate your irrigation system's water rate, request a Do It Yourself Household Water Assessment at comments@northgeorgiawater.com.
- ◆ Use mulch in all your planting beds and around trees.
- ◆ When upgrading your irrigation system consider installing a WaterSense irrigation controller or installing water saving devices such as a rain sensor and/or soil moisture monitor.

Use a rain gauge!

If it has rained an inch or more over the last week don't water.

Pay attention to the weather.

Avoid applying fertilizers and pesticides when rain is forecasted.

Fertilizer Use

- ◆ Test the soil for nutrient levels and fertilize according to the results. Visit extension.uga.edu to request a low-cost soil testing kit.
- ◆ Follow the manufactures' recommendations and directions.
- ◆ Fertilizers should be worked into the soil not left on the soil surface.
- ◆ Sweep up fertilizer that has landed on the sidewalk or hard surfaces.

Pest Management

- ◆ Prune, hand pick, use traps or horticultural oils and insecticide soaps.
- ◆ Use chemical pesticides as a last resort and only as listed on the label.
- ◆ Spot treat only affected areas.
- ◆ Avoid using broad-spectrum pesticides.

