ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

This brochure is dedicated to raising awareness of pollution prevention to protect water quality. The following landscaping practices will help minimize water pollution while providing your customers a healthy and attractive lawn and landscape.

PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPING ASSOCIATIONS

Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association
www.tnla.com

Tennessee Turfgrass Association
www.ttaonline.org

Southern Nursery Association (SNA)
www.sna.org

SEVIER STORMWATER GROUP

Sevier County Storm Water
Doyle Clabo, Director
David Carver, Technician
865.429.4580

City of Pigeon Forge
Joe Dunn
Brandon Williams
865.429.7312

City of Sevierville
Frank Cravens
865.429.4567

City of Gatlinburg
David Ball
Jay Horner
865.436.7792

Tennessee 811
Know what's **below.**
Call before you dig.

Sevier Stormwater Group
sevierville - Pigeon Forge - Gatlinburg - Sevier County

Solutions to Water Pollution for the

COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPING & LAWN CARE INDUSTRY

Sevier Stormwater Group
sevierville - Pigeon Forge - Gatlinburg - Sevier County

DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

- Design a landscape that reduces run-off and encourages natural infiltration of rain.
  - Minimize impervious areas.
  - Do not allow bare soil areas in the landscape.
  - Incorporate existing native vegetation into the landscape design when possible and select plants best adapted to the local climate, soils and growing conditions.
  - Choose turf grass that is heat and drought tolerant.
- Protect streams and waterways and reduce erosion by leaving an undisturbed vegetative buffer along stream banks.
- Do not plant hard-to-mow areas such as steep slopes in turf grass. Use ground covers, trees, shrubs or other perennials to reduce plant maintenance.
- Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.
- Prior to hydro seeding, cover all storm drains to ensure the material does not get washed into streams, rivers and lakes.

APPLYING FERTILIZER

- Apply only the amount of fertilizer that the turf or plant requires.
- Provide soil-sampling services to your customers to assure proper fertilizer and lime applications. Local Cooperative Extension Service offices can provide information on soil sampling procedures and where to get soil analysis services in your area.
- Do not apply fertilizer if heavy rain is predicted.
- Avoid fertilizing during periods of limited rainfall. Fertilizers are chemical salts and can dehydrate drought-stressed plant roots.
  - Use slow-release forms of nitrogen, such as urea formaldehyde, IBDU or sulfur-coated urea.
- Calibrate fertilizer spreaders and application equipment to ensure proper rates are applied.
- Around waterways, use a deflector shield with spreaders. Avoid throwing granules in water and leave a three-foot buffer of unfertilized turf.
- Minimize the amount of fertilizer applied to non-target areas by closing the spreader when passing over paved surfaces.
- If fertilizer is spilled or lands on paved surfaces, sweep it up and apply it to the lawn.
- A light irrigation immediately after fertilizer application will move the nutrients into the soil so they won't wash off in the next storm.

APPLYING PESTICIDES

- Read the pesticide label BEFORE you purchase, handle or apply it. The label provides safe usage and storage information. It is dangerous and illegal to not use as directed.
- Obtain a Tennessee Pesticide Applicators License. For more information go to **www.agriculture.state.tn.us.**

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a practice used by leading professional landscape companies, integrates a regular monitoring program with correct diagnosis of pest problems. It promotes the use of cultural, biological and mechanical means of controlling pests. And, it advocates intervention with pesticides only when necessary to avoid serious damage.
- The key to a successful IPM program is frequent inspection and accurate diagnosis of pests.
- Consult your local county Cooperative Extension Service office for assistance in identifying pests or selecting the best management option.
- Cultural control methods include proper planting methods, plant selection and maintenance practices such as using pest-resistant plant varieties.
- Mechanical control consists of practices like trapping or destroying pests by hand, pruning infested plant parts and mulching to prevent weed growth.
- Biological control methods are already in place in nature in the form of predator-prey relationships. Certain flowering plants and wildlife enhancements can attract insect-eating predators that can naturally control pest problems.

MANAGEMENT OF GRASS CLIPPINGS

- Properly maintained turf grass improves soil structure, stabilizes topsoil and reduces erosion and runoff.
- Avoid mowing more than 1/3 of the grass length. This may warrant more frequent mowing or changing the mower height in certain seasons. Use a mulching mower when possible.
- Don't blow, sweep or dump grass clippings or leaves into the street, down storm drains or drainage ditches.
- Compost plant clippings, leaves, excess grass clippings and other plant material, or bag them for curbside pickup.
- Recycle grass clippings. Clippings can provide up to 30 percent of the total fertilizer needs.
- Mulching leaves into the turf with a mulching mower can also be beneficial.
- Reuse compost in your landscape maintenance. The use of compost improves soil texture and structure, moisture retention and adds valuable nutrients.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

- Tell your client the benefits of grass clipping recycling. Lawn clippings left on the ground can provide nutrients and lower the amount of fertilizer required.
- After each service visit, leave a ticket telling the customer what pests were detected, any other problems and recommendations for management. Explain in detail the corrective actions taken to ensure approval of the management practices used.
- Maintain membership(s) in a professional landscaping organization(s) to stay current on maintenance methods and the newest plant varieties available. Become a certified professional and advertise this fact to your customers.