Lake Friendly Lawns: Green Lawn – Blue Lake

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Lake Champlain Sea Grant
Our Waters Support

Quality of life
Tourism and recreation
Economy
Fish and wildlife habitat
It’s a GREAT place to live...

- VT population growth >32% since 1970
- Economic growth doubled
- Chittenden Co. towns increase 55-75% since 1980
The Footprint of Growth
Suffern’ Streams, Sylvester!
What Happens?

• Beach closures
• Noxious algal blooms
• Excessive aquatic plant growth
• Toxins in fish (PCB, Hg)
• Loss of recreation opportunities and wildlife
Where Does This STUFF Come From, Anyway?

Homes, streets, businesses and LAWNS and GARDENS
**Stormwater** carries pollutants from homes, businesses and streets and into streams

- Fertilizer (phosphorous)
- Garden chemicals
- Yard waste
- Pet waste
- Hazardous materials (batteries, HH cleaners)
- Loose soil
Control of NPS pollution is EVERYONE’S responsibility

"WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US."

POGO
Phosphate Fertilizer

- Jan 2013, statewide
- No non-farm P use without a permit
- Permit only for new lawn start up
- Approved test shows P deficiency
Garden Chemicals: Pesticides and Herbicides
Almost everyone cares about water quality

Almost everyone is willing to change lawn/garden practices

BUT

Less than 10% knew how much pesticide they actually needed
Lawn care industry come-on photos like this give the impression that:

1. Chemical lawn treatments are safe for children and animals
2. Your lawn must be this color or people will think you're a bum.
3. It's good for the lawn.
4. Lawns need these chemicals to be healthy.
"researchers report that dogs were two times more likely to develop lymphoma if their owners sprayed or sprinkled the 2,4-D herbicide on the lawn four or more times a year. [And] even with just one application a season, the cancer risk was one-third higher than among dogs whose owners did not use the chemical."
2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine

Atrazine
Yard Waste: Nutrients, Flooding
Pet Waste

- 146,000 dogs in 92,250 VT households
- not the predominant or most toxic pollutant in urban streams, can have a big impact if left unmanaged.
- Diseases: Campylobacteriosis, Salmonellosis, Toxocarasis
- organic matter and nutrients in pet waste can degrade water quality
Healthy Stream Habits!

Stormwater washes pet waste from our grass and streets directly into the Letort.

Just one ounce of pet waste contains 650 million coliform bacteria!

If you don't pick it up, you might as well be swimming in it.
Today You Will Learn

• How lawn care practices can affect water quality
• New ways of lawn and garden care

How to become a Lake Friendly Gardener