

# Solutions to Water Pollution

## Commercial Landscaping & Lawn Care Industry

### Design & Installation

Design a landscape that reduces and encourages natural infiltration.

- Minimize impervious area.
- Prevent / Eliminate bare soil areas in the landscape.
- Incorporate existing native vegetation into the landscape.
- Choose native plants if at all possible.
- 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 trees, shrubs or other perennials to reduce 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.



Do not apply fertilizer if heavy rain is predicted.

Avoid fertilizing during period 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 buffer of unfertilized turf.

Minimize the amount of fertilizer applied to non-target areas.

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 & Herbicides

Read the pesticide label before you purchase, handle or apply it. 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](http://www.agriculture.state.tn.us)

### Pesticide & Herbicide Storage & Disposal

Keep pesticides and herbicides in their original container so you know what they are and how to use them.

Leftover pesticides and herbicides, in addition to a variety of other household hazardous wastes used in residential settings, may be disposed of at the City of Knoxville's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility at 1033 Elm Street, Knoxville TN 37921.

*For more details on disposing material's at the City of Knoxville's HHW facility, visit their website at:*

[www.cityofknoxville.org/solidwaste/hazwaste.asp](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/solidwaste/hazwaste.asp)



## Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a practice used by 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.

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 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.

Don't blow, sweep or dump grass clippings or leaves into the street, down storm drains, drainage ditches or streams.

Compost plant clippings, leaves, excess grass clippings, and other plant material, or bag them for curbside pickup.

Recycled grass clippings can provide up to 30% of fertilizer need.

Reuse compost in your landscape maintenance. The use of compost improves soil texture and structure and adds valuable nutrients.

## Consumer Education

Tell your clients about 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 and any other problems and recommendations for management. Explain in detail the corrective actions taken to ensure approval of the management practices used.

Maintain membership in a professional landscaping organization to stay current on current methods and the newest plant varieties available. Become a certified professional.



## Professional Landscaping Associations

Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association (TNLA)  
[www.TNLA.com](http://www.TNLA.com)

Tennessee Turfgrass Association  
[www.TTAOnline.org](http://www.TTAOnline.org)

Southern Nursery Association (SNA)  
[www.SNA.org](http://www.SNA.org)

## About This E-Brochure

This E-brochure was created as part of the Town of Farragut's Public Information and Education (PIE) plan. The intent of this E-Brochure is to inform the general public, professional chemical applicators & lawn maintenance professionals on the proper use, storage and disposal of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

This information is intended to increase awareness of pollution prevention activities to protect water quality while providing processes that will yield healthy and attractive lawns and landscapes.

### Town of Farragut Stormwater Matters

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[TownofFarragut.Org/StormwaterMatters](http://TownofFarragut.Org/StormwaterMatters)  
[Facebook.Com/StormwaterMatters](https://Facebook.Com/StormwaterMatters)  
[Twitter.Com/SWMatters](https://Twitter.Com/SWMatters)

*Document based on the Sevier Stormwater Group's  
"Solutions to Water Pollution for the Commercial  
Landscaping & Lawn Care Industry."*

