



GREEN LAWNS  
CLEAN WATERS  
THE ECOLOGICAL APPROACH

Go  
Green

# LAWNCARE TIP SHEET



## MOW HIGH - RECYCLE CLIPPINGS

- Mow at least 3" high
- Return clippings to recycle nutrients
- Sweep or blow clippings from walks and driveways onto the lawn
- Taller grass crowds out weeds and promotes deeper roots
- Deeper roots help the lawn survive droughts



## FERTILIZE IN FALL FOR BEST RESULTS

- Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn
- Be patient in the spring - wait until May to fertilize
- Don't fertilize if the ground is frozen or saturated with water
- Don't guess, soil test for proper fertilizer recommendations



## CHOOSE LAWN-TYPE FERTILIZERS

- Choose lawn fertilizers with low or no phosphorus (the middle number) and follow the directions
- Avoid using "triple" products (e.g. 12-12-12)
- Confirm spreader setting before applying



## CLEAN UP - AVOID SURFACE WATER

- Maintain a **NO APPLICATION** zone near lakes, rivers, streams and storm drains
- Never discharge clippings near lakes, rivers, streams or drains
- Sweep fertilizer granules from walks and driveways onto the lawn
- Wash your spreader on the grass



## WATER SMART

- Don't soak your lawn and avoid night watering
- Watering should not produce puddles; lighter, more frequent watering is best
- Brown lawns are OK; dormancy is a natural response to drought, however, some water may be necessary during an extended drought of more than a month
- Following Go Green Lawn care Tips will reduce the amount of water your lawn needs

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For more great ideas to promote your Go Green Lawn care initiative see:  
[www.lawncares.com/tipsheet/](http://www.lawncares.com/tipsheet/)



For more lawn tips see: [WWW.TURF.MSU.EDU](http://WWW.TURF.MSU.EDU)

