

THE EFFECTS OF PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZERS

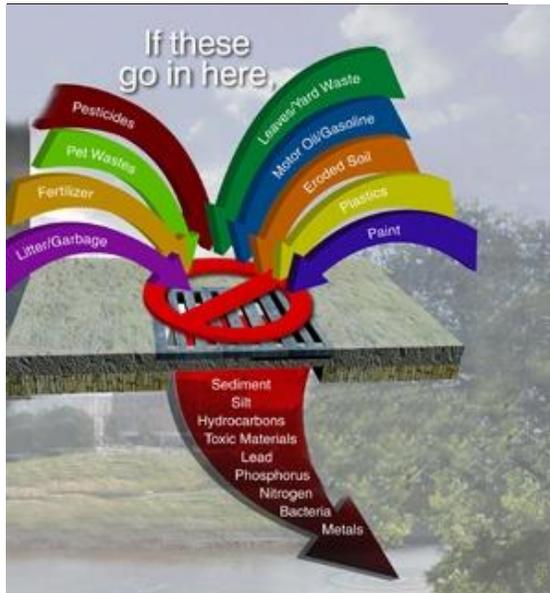
Most everyone enjoys a beautiful green lawn. Fertilizer can be a key component to helping your lawn look its best. However, the chemicals found in fertilizer are not always the best for the surrounding ecosystem. Excessive phosphorus can be washed from a lawn and migrate into nearby waterways or storm sewer systems that convey stormwater to a nearby waterway. The effects of this migration can be devastating. The disproportionate levels of phosphorus can promote excessive plant germination in the waterway, thereby depleting oxygen levels, and ultimately kill wildlife and vegetation living in the waterway.

Consider buying fertilizers that do not contain phosphorus and don't bag your grass clippings this spring. The grass clippings decompose quickly and release natural, valuable nutrients for on-going success of your lawn.

Good luck making your yard look beautiful this spring and the Village thanks you for making Wauconda look great.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION PLAN

The Village needs your help in protecting our valuable water resources by eliminating illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. An illicit discharge is defined as any discharge to the storm sewer system or waterway that is not composed entirely of storm water. Sources of illicit discharges may include materials such as:



- * Sanitary wastewater
- * Gas & motor oil
- * Household cleaners
- * Paints
- * Pesticides
- * Solvents
- * Vehicle spills
- * Weed killers
- * Radiator flushing disposal
- * Laundry wastewaters

Disposing of household chemicals and wastes by dumping them in to the storm sewers is illegal and a major cause of stormwater pollution. If you witness or are suspicious of any illegal dumping, please report it to the Public Works at 847-526-

9610. Please do not attempt to address the issue yourself. Public complaints provide the most common source of information. When calling we'll ask you for the location of the dumping and the material being dumped (if known).

PLANT NATIVE

Over the years, development has historically removed native areas. This can have a negative impact on our ecosystem and our stormwater management. Native plants provide the ecological basis for which insects, birds and other wildlife survive. They also have significantly deeper root systems that stabilize ravines and bluffs while also allowing stormwater to infiltrate into the ground. This infiltration reduces runoff and also filters polluted stormwater from entering our ravine systems.



Should residents plant native plants in your own yard? Yes! As homeowners along the Village's drainage ways, you can be the first line of defense against erosion and pollution prevention. The benefits of native plants are their natural beauty, they are low maintenance (once established), and they conserve water and provide healthy areas for your family to enjoy. Find the right kind of native plants for your lawn at www.audubon.org/native-plants.

ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SALT DEICERS

Salt does an amazing job melting ice and making our roads safe during the winter months. However, excessive salt usage can have a negative impact as well. The Village works to reduce its salt usage annually to minimize the impact to the environment.

Overuse can:

- Contaminate waterways,
- Kill landscaping,
- Damage uncured concrete, and/or
- Cause illness if ingested by children or pets

Nothing works better at preventing ice buildup than proper snow removal after a storm. Removing the snow from hard surfaces prevents the freeze-thaw cycle that ultimately freezes over. If salting is performed, the best way to apply salt is to do so before the storm. Pre-salting creates a brine, or barrier, that prevents bonding to the pavement and reduces freezing and accumulation. If salt is used, only apply at or below the application rates identified on packaging and sweep up extra salt once things have dried out. The snow is gone and any remaining salt will only hurt the environment.

Consider finding alternative products that are pet friendly. Road salt can cause painful burning and cracked or dried out pads in your pet. Alternative products can even be more effective in lower temperatures. Road salt typically stops working below 15°F. We all need to work together to reduce chloride use which in turn will help protect the environment.

RAIN GARDENS: SOAKING UP THE PROBLEM

Tired of seeing that low lying area in your yard collect stormwater? Have you considered filling in that area with topsoil? Try installing a rain garden to help localized flooding, filter water pollution, slowing the rate of stream flooding in developed areas and replenishing groundwater. This feature helps keep stormwater in a specified location and discourages excessive run-off from your property. PLUS, it looks great! See the USEPA's website at http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/gi_what.cfm for additional information on the construction of rain gardens and other stormwater best management practices.

