



HEALTHY LAWN CARE PROGRAM FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION

A Guide to Selecting a Lawn Service for Watershed Protection

Why Be Concerned?

Rain and melting snow carry small amounts of oil, grease, soil, debris and other pollutants to rivers, lakes and wetlands. Lawn fertilizer and pesticides are among the pollutants that have been found in storm water runoff.

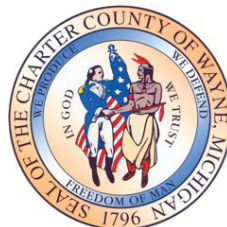
The Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA) offers an endorsement program for lawn care professionals interested in offering an alternative lawn care program to their customers.

Program Components Include:

- An initial on-site consultation/assessment
- Soil nutrient tests offered to new customers
- No phosphorus or low-phosphorus fertilizer in accordance with state law
- Slow-release nitrogen fertilizer (40% in slow-release form)
- Advice to the customer on proper maintenance practices such as mowing and irrigation
- Fertilizer quantities of two, three, or four pounds per 1000 square feet, applied over the growing season
- Weed control options:
 - Zero pesticides
 - Spot-treatment for weeds and/or
 - One-time rescue operation for weed control
- Insect control only after identification of problem on site

Participating lawn care companies typically offer the "Healthy Lawn Care Program" as an option for their customers. Some companies offer natural organic fertilizers, while others use coated, synthetic products which slowly release nutrients. If you would like an "organic fertilizer" program, ask for it specifically.

For a list of the endorsed companies, please see reverse side of this card or visit www.landscape.org. For further information, contact the MGIA at (248) 646-4992.



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