

Clean Water Starts at Home

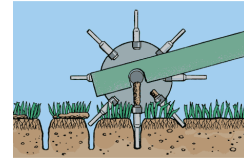
Tip #6: Fall Lawn Care

Healthy soil is key for healthy lawns, and healthy lawns can be good for water quality. Turf grass has a growth spurt in the fall to store up energy for winter; give it some help:

Mulch leaves and grass with your lawnmower to return nutrients to the soil and to help keep them off the streets...and out of our water!

Aerate your lawn late August, early-September

How? It's best to use a core aerator, available for rent at many home & garden stores, and offered by some lawncare services. Water and air can reach the grass roots more easily with aeration.



Wait to fertilize until after aeration

If you use fertilizer, use it in September after aerating your lawn. Then it can be absorbed and saved by plants for spring.

Make sure your lawn fertilizer has no phosphorus – look for a “0” in the middle of three numbers on the bag indicating nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), & potassium (K) amounts. Fertilizing once per year should be enough. If you regularly mulch your clippings and leaves, you may not need to fertilize.

For more information contact Dawn at Coon Creek Watershed District 763.755.0975 or email: info@cooncreekwd.org.

WEB Resources:

- ◆ Aeration - www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene5e77.html
- ◆ Wondering if you need to use fertilizer? test your soil via UMN Extension: <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/how-to-submit-samples/lawn-garden/>