# STORMWATER POLLUTION & LAWN MAINTENANCE

During the spring and summer months, stormwater pollution is especially prevalent. Water resulting from precipitation and snow/ice melt either soaks into exposed soil or remains on top of impervious surfaces like pavement or rooftops. Most stormwater will eventually evaporate, but often times it will flow as runoff into nearby waterways. As the water flows, it picks up pollutants along its path including debris, sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste and more. Polluted stormwater can cause soil erosion, stream impairment, flooding, fish and wildlife habitat loss, and reduced groundwater levels.

**A major contributor to stormwater pollution is traced back to residual excess from lawn care maintenance - particularly with fertilizers and lawn clippings.**

## Help prevent stormwater pollution with the following tips:

**1** **USE FERTILIZER SPARINGLY:**
A little goes a long way. Many plants don't need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you may think.

**2** **ORGANIC, PHOSPHOROUS FREE:**
These fertilizers release nutrients more slowly and are less detrimental to the environment.

**3** **PROPER DISPOSAL:**
Yard waste including leaves and grass clippings can wash into storm drains, adding nutrients to streams. Compost or remove yard waste to prevent this.

**4** **EXCESS WATER:**
Stop pollutants from making their way into the storm drain by avoiding over-watering and fertilizing before a rainstorm.

**5** **TEST SOIL:** You may not need to add any fertilizer to your lawn or garden. To order a soil test (~$15), contact the UMASS Extension Soil Testing Lab at **413.545.2311** or **soiltest.umass.edu/ordering-information**

TATA & HOWARD

**Unsurpassed Solutions in the Water Environment**