

RECIPES FOR A CLEANER – GREENER TOMORROW

**Lawn
Care**



**A Way You
Can Make A
Difference**

Watershed Action Team–Environmental Restoration

For more information on our environmental restoration effort, visit our website at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/resmgmt/default.asp> or to volunteer for a cleaner, greener tomorrow e-mail us at ccwater@ccg.carr.org .

We all enjoy a luscious green yard with beautiful flowers and shrubs. No one should be denied the ability to have such a nice lawn; however, we need to be mindful of our impact on the ground water supply and environment. Most people don't know what their lawns actually need. A simple soil test will help you determine how much fertilizer to apply. Your lawn care company or the Cooperative Extension Service can provide you with soil testing kits and recommendations.

FACTS:

> Runoff of nutrients, from lawn care products applied to our lawns, promotes weed and algae growth in streams, lakes, and estuaries causing limited light penetration and the growth of aquatic vegetation. This in turn can reduce oxygen levels in the water, negatively affecting fish and other aquatic organisms.

> Pesticide runoff can contribute pollutants that contaminate drinking water supplies and are toxic to humans, pets and aquatic organisms.

Ways to Make A Difference:

◆ Xeriscaping utilizes drought resistant plants and minimizes watering. The Bureau of Resource Management has created two (2) brochures relating to plant materials associated with drought conditions. These brochures are available online or as handouts.

◆ Integrated Pest Management uses several methods (such as mechanical, biological, and chemical) at one time to control pests. Apply the proper amount of fertilizer (as determined by a soil test) in early fall. This will reduce nitrogen and phosphorous from running off into storm drain systems; therefore, causing less impacts to the Chesapeake Bay.

◆ Natural and Organic Lawn Care companies use products that come from renewable resources; therefore, limiting the impact on the environment.

◆ Native plants used for landscaping your yard help conserve water and minimize the use of pest control products because the plants are accustomed to the local environment. These plants are accustomed to the dry summer months and are also resistant to the type of pests that will try to prey on them.