



Michael J. Sadowski, PE - Chairman
Town of Ramapo

Charles W. Sawicki - First Vice Chairman
Village of Suffern

James J. Dean - Second Vice Chairman
Town of Orangetown

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

TOPIC: Fall Lawn Care and Stormwater Runoff

CONTACT: Chuck Stead, Environmental Educator
845-429-7085, extension 125

FOR AIRING: October thru November 2011

Don't leave lawn care until spring! Fall is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn and control weeds. In fact, healthy lawns help our lakes and streams. Thick grass helps prevent soil erosion and absorbs rainwater. By soaking up rainwater, lawns can decrease the amount of stormwater runoff that funnels pollutants into drinking water supplies, lakes and streams.

Here's how to keep your lawn healthy in the fall:

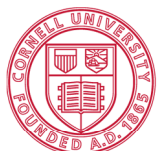
1. **MOW:** Mow your grass at the height of two and one half to three inches.
2. **WATER:** Even though it is cooler in the fall, lawns still need regular watering to maintain plant health and survive winter conditions. If there is little or no rain, water until the ground begins to freeze.
3. **FERTILIZE:** Fall is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn, specifically around Labor Day and right after your last mowing. Apply it just before it rains, to help save water.
4. **SOIL TEST:** A soil test is a good idea, especially when concerned about the acidity or nutrients.
5. **CONTROL WEEDS:** Remove a limited number of weeds by hand or spot treat with a herbicide.
6. **SWEEP-UP:** Sweep up and reuse fertilizers or granular products that fall on streets, sidewalks and driveways.

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Town of Haverstraw
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Town of Stony Point
Village of Chestnut Ridge
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Village of Piermont
Village of Pomona
Village of South Nyack
Village of Spring Valley
Village of Suffern
Village of Upper Nyack
Village of West Haverstraw
Village of Wesley Hills

Return Correspondence to:

Chuck Stead,
Environmental Educator
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Rockland County
10 Patriot Hills Drive
Stony Point, NY 10980



Cornell University
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Here's how to recycle your yard waste:

COMPOST: Composting recycles nutrients and helps keep leaves and grass clippings out of streets and stormdrains.

MULCH: You can use leaves, whole, or shredded by a power mower, as winter or spring mulch. Spread two to three inches deep on top of shrub beds and perennial beds.

BAG: If you must, rake and bag your leaves for pick up by your local municipality. Contact your local town or villages regarding pick up procedures and times.

To learn more about backyard composting, soil testing and what you can do to prevent stormwater pollution, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (845) 429-7085, ext. 3.

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This message was brought to you by

Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Stormwater Consortium of Rockland County.



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