



# Lawn & Garden Waste Management

**Lawn & Garden Waste**, if improperly handled, can accumulate and often lands in creeks and ditches, as well as in the City storm sewer system. Responsible management of lawn and garden waste helps promote good water quality, and keeps our water resources healthy.

Under recent changes to the federal Clean Water Act, the City must address the issue of water quality. A major component of polluted water in the City is nitrogen and phosphorous based fertilizers that wash off over fertilized yards. When fertilizer is applied to a yard, any excess that falls on sidewalks and driveways should always be swept back into the yard rather than washed into the street or gutter with a garden hose. One easy step homeowners can take to avoid over-fertilizing is to soil test their yards prior to application of any fertilizers. In many instances, soil testing saves the homeowner money, because it shows that they can reduce the amount of fertilizer needed.

**Composting** of lawn and garden waste on site is another method homeowners can use to reduce their fertilizer costs. There are a growing number of homeowners who are opting to mulch tree leaves and grass clippings with their lawn mowers to compost, and later use as a soil amendment in their yards and flower beds. (Pet waste should not be com

posted, and if chemical fertilizers are used, the compost should not be added to vegetable gardens).



## Tips

- Mow frequently & Leave grass clippings on the lawn.
- Spread finished compost lightly over your lawn.
- Water early in the morning to avoid excessive evaporation.



Citizen Information Brochures  
May be obtained from the  
Maintenance Department  
245 S. Summit Dr. Holts Summit, MO. 65043  
Office Hours: 8am - 5pm, Mon. - Fri.  
(573) 896 - 5600  
<http://www.holtssummit.org/>

