How Your Yard Can Impact the Environment

- When it rains, storm water runs through your yard, down the street and into the nearest storm drain, picking up chemicals, nutrients and pollutants along the way.
- These pollutants are quickly carried to the nearest water body untreated through the storm sewer system.
- Improper use of lawn care chemicals (such as fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides) can increase public and environmental health risks by contaminating surface waters with toxic levels of chemicals and excessive nutrients.
- Yard clippings can clog storm sewers and decompose in water bodies, taking oxygen away from fish and other wildlife.
- Sediments and soil washed from yards can also harm aquatic life by clogging fish gills, blocking light transmission, and inhibiting photosynthesis.

Anything that enters a storm sewer goes directly into a local water body!

What is the Village's Role in Storm Water?

In recognition of the importance that each of us has on the quality of local water bodies like the Long Island Sound, the Village of Mineola has implemented a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The Village's SWMP includes the following six program components:

- Public education and outreach
- Public participation and involvement
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff control
- Post-construction storm water management
- Municipal pollution prevention and good housekeeping

The goal of the Village's SWMP is to reduce impacts of storm water runoff thereby improving water quality, enhancing recreational enjoyment, preventing beach closures, and ensuring that seafood is safer to eat.

Village of Mineola

Phase II Storm Water Management Program

Surface Water Quality Series:

Lawn and Garden Care

How your garden can help protect surface waters!

What *you* can do to protect water quality in Mineola

The Good News!

With these few simple steps, you can have a great yard and protect water quality!

Pesticides

- Inspect your lawn and garden often for pests. Catching a problem early reduces the amount of pesticide required.
- Use mechanical methods or nontoxic products first, such as pulling weeds, pruning, setting baits/traps, or other organic gardening methods.
- If pesticides must be used, spot treat only the affected areas instead of widespread application.
- Different pests require different controls. Identify the specific weeds, diseases, insects or other pests to choose which pesticide is most appropriate.
- Read labels and limit application to the rates and methods specified.
- Drop-off excess pesticides at a Town S.T.O.P. Day to ensure safe disposal.

Fertilizers

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.
- Healthy trees, bushes and shrubs do not require an annual fertilizer application.
- Test soils first to determine which nutrients are lacking so you can apply fertilizer more efficiently.
- Choose a fertilizer that has the proportions of nutrients your lawn needs based on the soil test.
- Slow-release formula fertilizers minimize chemical loss and promote plant uptake.
- Fertilize in the fall to promote a deep, healthy root system and hardy lawn.

Lawn Maintenance

- Schedule yard work and chemical applications for dry weather.
- Buy only the amount of chemical you will use and avoid "weed-and-feed" combination products.
- Store all chemicals in their original containers and under cover.
- Set the lawnmower blade setting to 2-½ to 3 inches to develop a deep root system resistant to drought and pests.
- Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems to prevent overwatering and runoff.
- Choose native grass and plants; they have lower nutrient and watering needs.
- Vegetate or mulch bare soil.
- Sweep all fertilizers, soil, and vegetation off paved surfaces. Do not blow, hose or sweep anything into the street or storm drains.