

Get wise about your lawn. Consider your options.

- 1. Test your soil.** A soil test lets you know what your lawn and garden need for nutrients so that you don't waste money. UMass Extension provides soil testing services. See: <https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory>
- 2. Leave grass clippings where they fall.** Grass clippings left on the lawn will decompose, returning valuable nutrients back into the soil. To make best use of this free, natural fertilizer: mow high (2 to 3"), do not remove more than 1/3 of the blade, and mow when grass is dry. Mowing to a 2 to 3" grass height is also optimal for plant vigor and shading out weeds.
- 3. Choose the right fertilizer.** If a soil test shows your lawn needs nutrients, ask for slow-release fertilizers. These products more effectively deliver what plants need. Also, know how much and when and where to apply.



Did you know?

When it rains, fertilizers washing off lawns, flow directly down storm drains, and into a nearby lake, stream, or river. Good practices around your home and garden that eliminate contaminated storm flows will help reduce costs associated with water pollution and get us to fishable and swimmable lakes and rivers in the Pioneer Valley region. Please do your part and join your friends and neighbors for clean water. The three practices listed above give you a great starting place!



A close-up photograph of vibrant green grass blades, filling the entire frame. The blades are long and narrow, with a distinct central vein. The lighting is bright, creating a soft glow around the edges of the leaves.

This message is brought to you by the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, a collaborative of 19 municipalities and UMass, Amherst, all of which are regulated under a U.S. EPA stormwater permit for Massachusetts.