



# WATER PROTECTION GUIDE TO Lawn and Garden Care



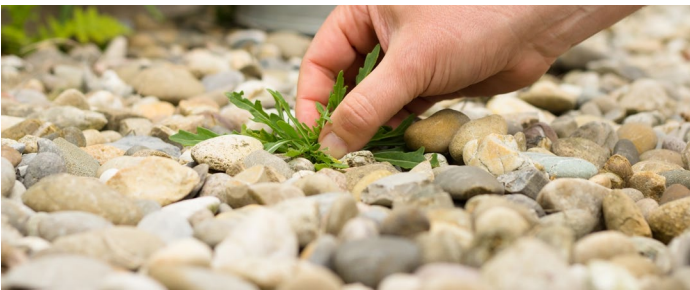
## Compost Yard Waste

- Mow regularly to avoid long grass clippings.
- Compost grass clippings or sweep them onto lawn.
- Compost or mulch leaves and other yard waste.
- Store mulch and other materials on a tarp or other contained area.



## Fertilize Sparingly

- Do a soil test to determine if additional nutrients are needed.
- Read instructions carefully before applying fertilizer.
- Do not fertilize if it is likely to rain in the next day or two.
- Select plants that require minimal watering and fertilizing to prevent nutrient runoff.



## Manage Weeds Responsibly

- Hand pick or spot treat for weeds and other pests.
- Use alternative pest management techniques instead of chemical pesticides.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals in a secure covered area.
- Dispose of chemicals properly and never pour them down the drain. Boulder County residents can use the Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF). Learn more at: [www.boco.org/hmmf](http://www.boco.org/hmmf).



## Prevent Water Runoff

- Adjust sprinklers to direct water onto lawns and landscaping, not sidewalks and roads. You may be eligible for a free sprinkler evaluation from Resource Central. Learn more at: [www.resourcecentral.org](http://www.resourcecentral.org).
- Direct downspouts into a rain barrel to capture rainwater for watering or into a rain garden so water soaks into the ground.
- Do not overwater lawns and gardens and cause nutrients to leach out.
- Use porous materials like bricks and gravel instead of concrete or asphalt in outdoor spaces to reduce water runoff.

# Protect streams from excess nutrients and chemicals

Pesticides applied to lawns often end up in nearby streams and harm aquatic life. Nutrients from fertilizer and yard waste can cause excessive algae growth, robbing the organisms that live in our waterways from the oxygen they need to survive.

## Your community is taking action

Boulder County residents responsibly disposed of **54,379 LBS.** of pesticides at the Hazardous Materials Management Facility in 2020.

In 2019, Resource Central conducted **1,803 consultations** to inspect sprinklers and provide a suggested water and money saving schedule.

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## From your Home to the Creek

Polluted stormwater enters storm drains and flows directly to local waterways without receiving treatment at sewage plants.



Common household activities can be sources of pollutants



Rain and snow pick up pollutants and carry them into roads as stormwater



Stormwater enters storm drains on roads and flows through underground channels



Stormwater flows through these channels directly into local creeks without being treated

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## Boulder St. Vrain Watershed

Our watershed is home to over 300,000 residents who depend on it for drinking water, floodplain functions, recreation, and other services. A watershed is an area of land where all streams and rainfall drain to the same place. A healthy watershed means a healthy community, environment, and economy.

Learn more about our watershed and how you can help protect it at [www.KeepitCleanPartnership.org](http://www.KeepitCleanPartnership.org).

