Watershed Friendly Fertilizers

While you're planning and working on your lawns or deciding on a lawn care service plan, we and the SE Michigan Partners for Clean Water encourage you to take simple steps to protect water quality while improving and maintaining your lawn. Please check out the tips and resources listed below on lawn care, fertilizers and other gardening practices, and challenge yourself to try a few of these tips this year.

1. **Fertilize sparingly and caringly**

   **Go slow.** Select an organic or slow-release fertilizer.
   **Buy low.** Select a fertilizer with low or no phosphorus
   **Mow high.** Make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high – three inches is the rule!
   **Sweep it.** Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways will easily wash into storm drains.
   **Don’t guess . . . soil test.** A soil test will tell you what, if any, fertilizer is needed in your yard. Contact your county Michigan State University Extension office for more information.