

Sowing the Seeds for Healthy Waterways:

How Your Gardening Choices Can
Have a Positive Impact in Your
Watershed

If we lived in a perfect world...





Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 1 Cake

Calories: 0

Fat: 0 grams

Cholesterol: 0

Tax and Credits

Standard Deduction for—

• People who checked any box on line 39a or 39b or who can be claimed as a dependent, see page 31.

• All others:

Single or Married filing separately, \$5,350

Married filing jointly or Qualifying widow(er), \$10,700

Head of household, \$7,850

38 Amount from line 37 (adjusted gross income)

39a Check ☐ You were born before January 2 if: ☐ Spouse was born before January

b If your spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a

40 Itemized deductions (from Schedule A) or you

41 Subtract line 40 from line 38

42 If line 38 is \$117,300 or less, multiply \$3,400 by line 41. If line 38 is over \$117,300, see the worksheet on page 32.

43 Taxable income. Subtract line 42 from line 41

44 Tax (see page 33). Check if any tax is from: a ☐ Form 1040-E

45 Alternative minimum tax (see page 36). Attach Form 6250

46 Add lines 44 and 45

47 Credit for child and dependent care expenses. Attach Form 2445

48 Credit for the elderly or the disabled. Attach Form 2020

49 Education credits. Attach Form 8863

50 Residential energy credits. Attach Form 5695

51 Foreign tax credit. Attach Form 1116 if required

52 Child tax credit (see page 39). Attach Form 8801

53 Retirement savings contributions credit. Attach Form 8880

54 Credits from: a ☐ Form 8396 b ☐ Form 8859 c ☐ Form 8801

55 Other credits: a ☐ Award-winning rose garden b ☐ Form 3800 c ☐ Form 8801 d ☐ Form 8801

56 Add lines 47 through 55. These are your total credits

57 Subtract line 56 from line 46. If line 56 is more than line 46, enter -0-

Other Taxes

58 Self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE

59 Unreported social security and Medicare tax from: a ☐ Form 4137 b ☐ Form 8919

60 Additional tax on IRAs, other qualified retirement plans, etc. Attach Form 5320 if required

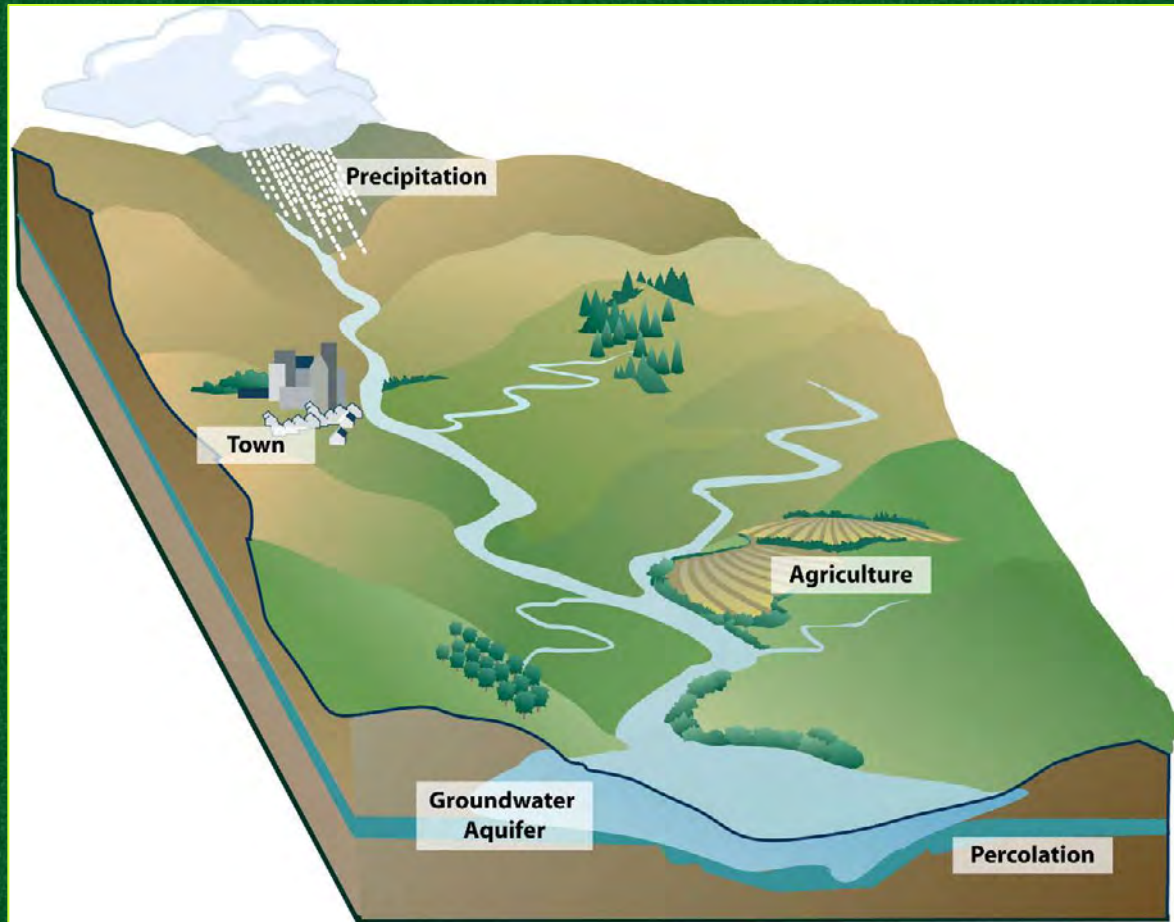




Nitrogen and Phosphorus pollution, also known as “Nutrient Pollution”

Watershed

- A watershed is an area of land where all the water drains into a common body of water. Watersheds are also referred to as "drainage basins."

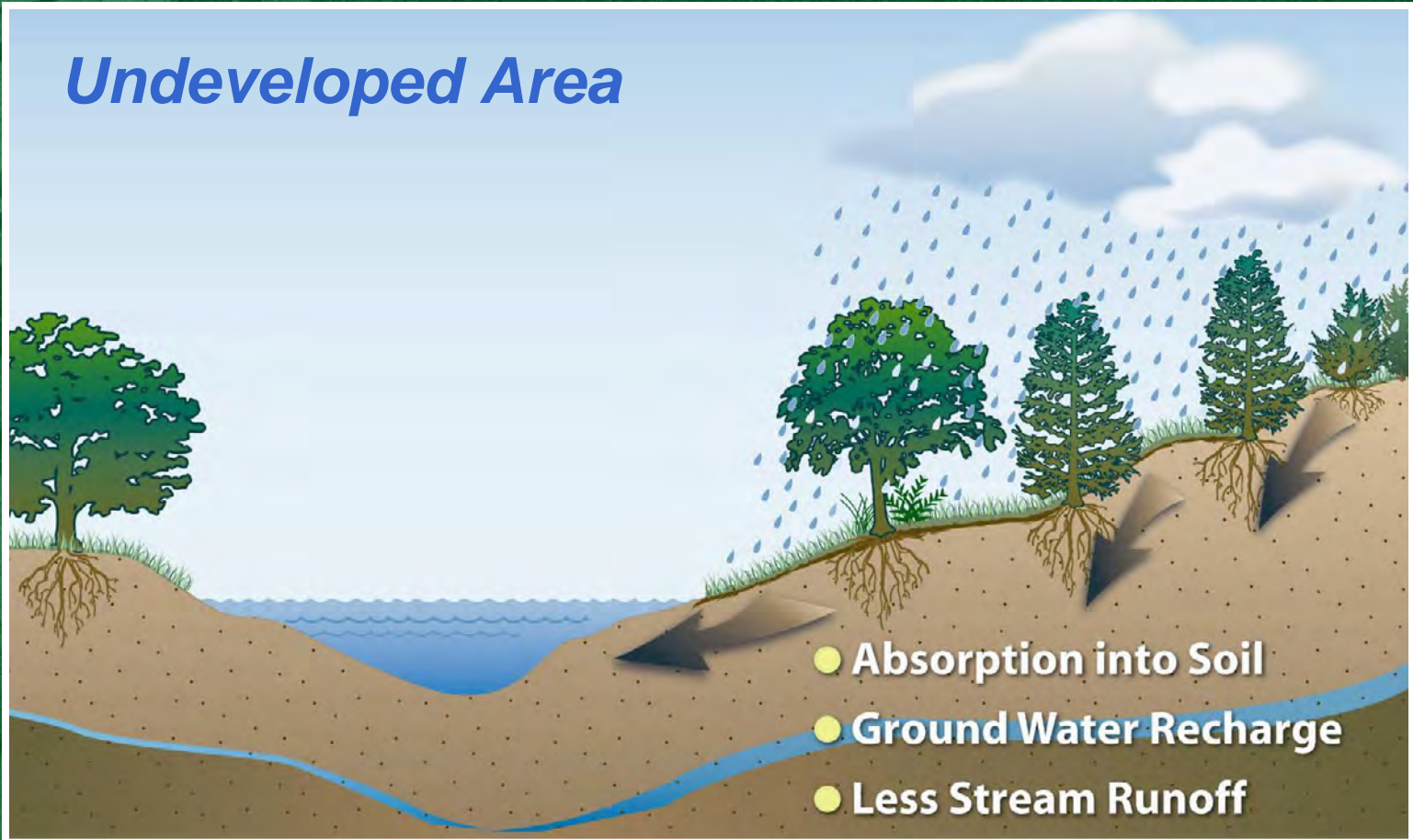


The path water takes as it flows downhill impacts water quality.



Water runs off the land, carrying fertilizer, dirt, pet waste and many other pollutants with it directly into the waterway.

The path water takes as it flows downhill impacts water quality.



Water percolates through the ground slowly.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus 101

1

1

H

hydrogen

1.007 94(7)

2

2

He

helium

4.002 602(2)

3

4

Li

lithium

6.941(2)

5

6

Be

beryllium

9.012 182(3)

7

8

Na

sodium

22.989 769 28(2)

9

10

Mg

magnesium

24.3050(6)

11

12

Sc

scandium

44.955 912(6)

13

14

Ti

titanium

47.867(1)

15

16

V

vanadium

50.9415(1)

17

18

Cr

chromium

51.9961(6)

19

20

Mn

manganese

54.938 045(5)

21

22

Fe

iron

55.845(2)

23

24

Co

cobalt

58.933 195(5)

25

26

Ni

nickel

58.6934(2)

27

28

Cu

copper

63.546(3)

29

30

Zn

zinc

65.409(4)

31

32

Ga

gallium

69.723(1)

33

34

Ge

germanium

72.64(1)

35

36

As

arsenic

74.921 60(2)

37

38

Se

selenium

78.96(3)

39

40

Br

bromine

79.904(1)

41

42

Kr

krypton

83.798(2)

43

44

Rb

rubidium

85.4678(3)

45

46

Sr

strontium

87.62(1)

47

48

Y

yttrium

88.905 85(2)

49

50

Zr

zirconium

91.224(2)

51

52

Nb

niobium

92.906 38(2)

53

54

Mo

molybdenum

95.94(2)

55

56

Tc

technetium

[98]

57

58

Ru

ruthenium

101.07(2)

59

60

Rh

rhodium

102.905 50(2)

61

62

Pd

palladium

106.42(1)

63

64

Ag

silver

107.8682(2)

65

66

Cd

cadmium

112.411(8)

67

68

In

indium

114.818(3)

69

70

Sn

tin

118.710(7)

71

72

Sb

antimony

121.760(1)

73

74

Te

tellurium

127.60(3)

75

76

I

iodine

126.904 47(3)

77

78

Xe

xenon

131.293(6)

79

80

Cs

caesium

132.905 451 9(2)

81

82

Ba

barium

137.327(7)

83

84

Lanthanoids

85

86

Hf

hafnium

178.49(2)

87

88

Ta

tantalum

180.947 88(2)

89

90

W

tungsten

183.84(1)

91

92

Re

rhenium

186.207(1)

93

94

Os

osmium

190.23(3)

95

96

Ir

iridium

192.217(3)

97

98

Pt

platinum

195.084(9)

99

100

Au

gold

196.966 569(4)

101

102

Hg

mercury

200.59(2)

103

104

Tl

thallium

204.3833(2)

105

106

Pb

lead

207.2(1)

107

108

Bi

bismuth

208.980 40(1)

109

110

Po

polonium

[209]

111

112

At

astatine

[210]

113

114

Rn

radon

[222]

115

116

Fr

francium

[223]

117

118

Ra

radium

[226]

119

120

Actinoids

121

122

Rf

rutherfordium

[261]

123

124

Db

dubnium

[262]

125

126

Sg

seaborgium

[266]

127

128

Bh

bohrium

[264]

129

130

Hs

hassium

[277]

131

132

Mt

meitnerium

[268]

133

134

Ds

darmstadtium

[271]

135

136

Rg

roentgenium

[272]

137

138

La

lanthanum

138.905 47(7)

139

140

Ce

cerium

140.116(1)

141

142

Pr

praseodymium

140.907 65(2)

143

144

Nd

neodymium

144.242(3)

145

146

Pm

promethium

[145]

147

148

Sm

samarium

150.36(2)

149

150

Eu

europium

151.964(1)

151

152

Gd

gadolinium

157.25(3)

153

154

Tb

terbium

158.925 35(2)

155

156

Dy

dysprosium

162.500(1)

157

158

Ho

holmium

164.930 32(2)

159

160

Er

erbium

167.259(3)

161

162

Tm

thulium

168.934 21(2)

163

164

Yb

ytterbium

173.04(3)

165

166

Lu

lutetium

174.967(1)

167

168

Ac

actinium

[227]

169

170

Th

thorium

232.038 06(2)

171

172

Pa

protactinium

231.036 88(2)

173

174

U

uranium

238.028 91(3)

175

176

Np

neptunium

[237]

177

178

Pu

plutonium

[244]

179

180

Am

americium

[243]

181

182

Cm

curium

[247]

183

184

Bk

berkelium

[247]

185

186

Cf

californium

[251]

187

188

Es

einsteinium

[252]

189

190

Fm

fermium

[257]

191

192

Md

mendeleevium

[258]

193

194

No

nobelium

[259]

195

196

Lr

lawrencium

[262]

Key:

atomic number

Symbol

name

standard atomic weight

What are Nutrients?

- Nutrients are elements, like nitrogen and phosphorus, that occur naturally in water, soil and air
- Sources of nutrients
 - Decaying plant matter
 - Animal and human wastes (pet waste, septic tanks, waste water treatment plants)
 - Detergents
 - Fertilizer (residential, commercial, and agricultural)

Nitrogen

- Highly soluble in its common compound form, nitrate.
- Easily washed from the soil by rain or irrigation.
- Leached from the soil or absorbed by plants within weeks of application.
- Stimulates shoot growth in plants.
- Signs of deficiency can mimic other plant illnesses; yellowing leaves (with or without a reduction in size).



Phosphorus

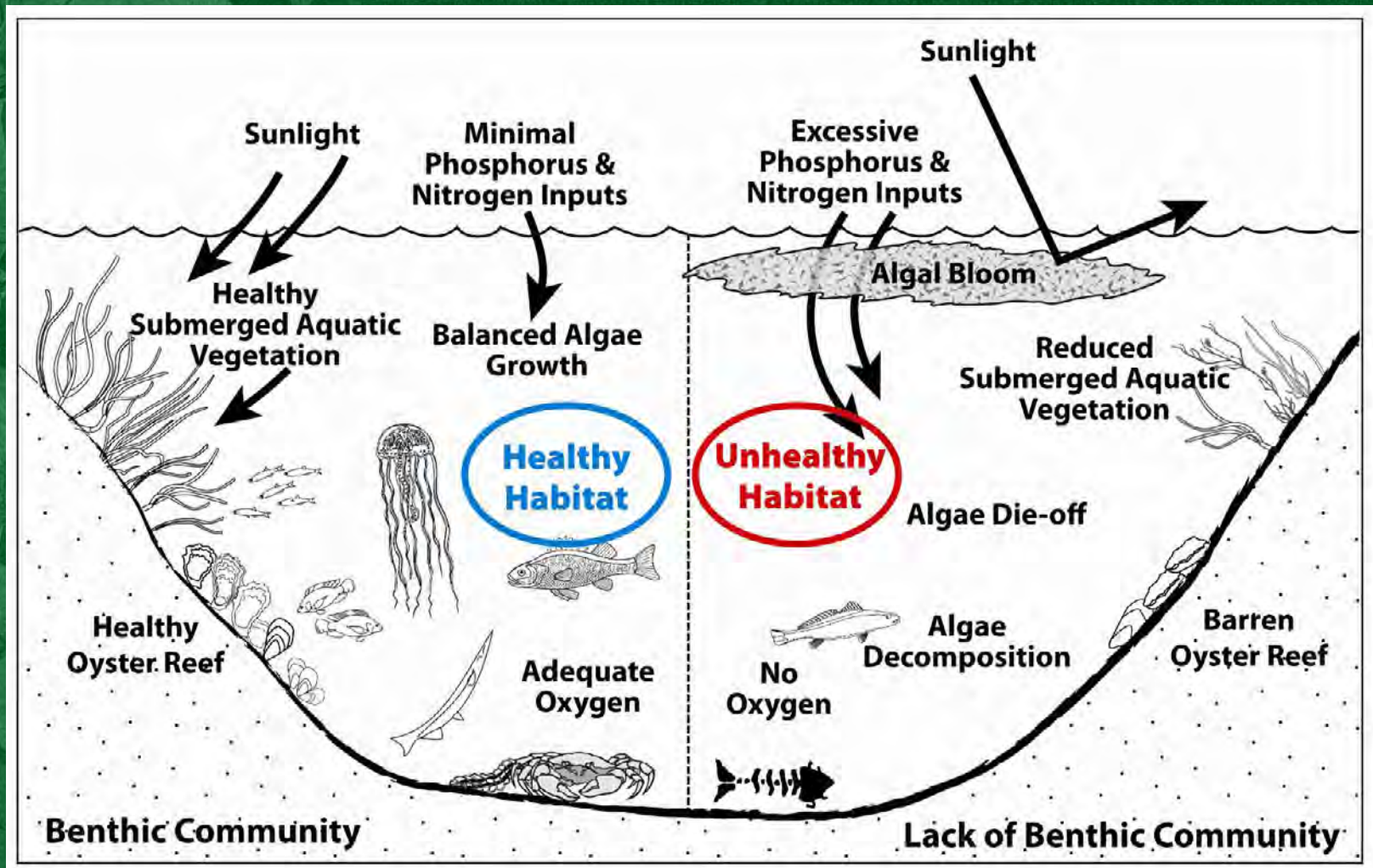
- Typically found in soil as an insoluble compound.
- Leaches from the soil very slowly.
- Deficiency appears first as slowed growth. The leaves will become dull and dark green or grayish green.



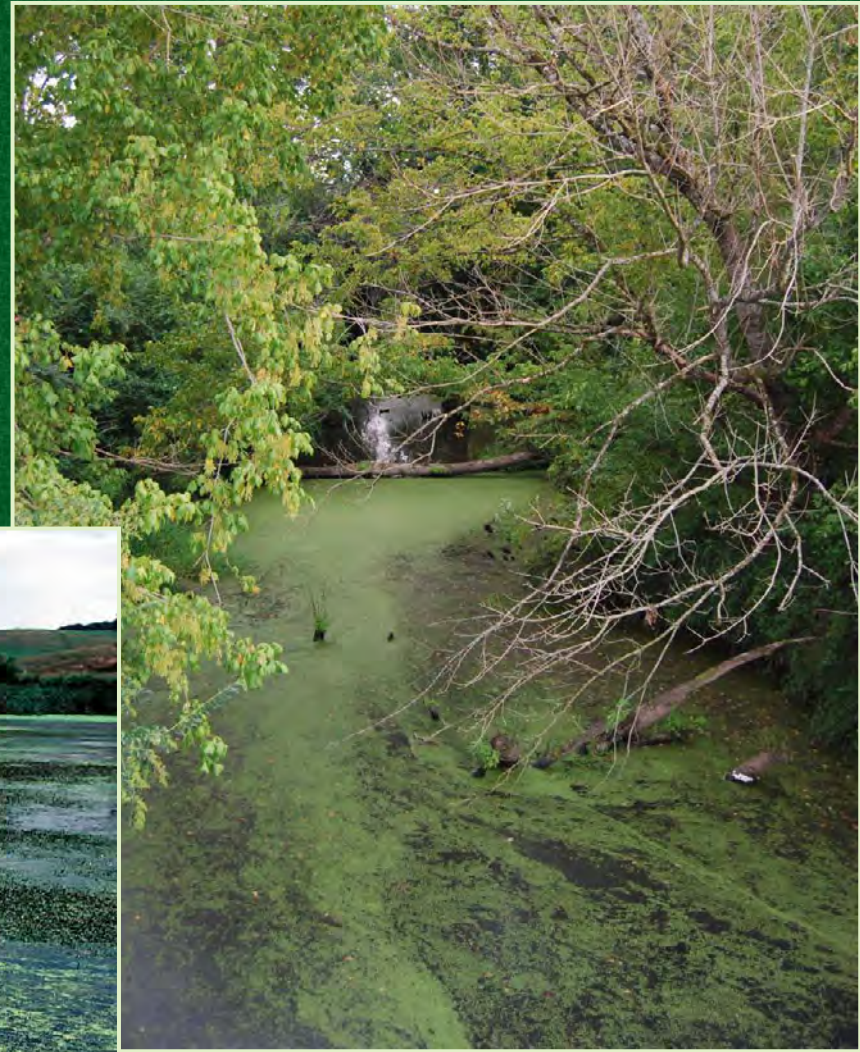
Nutrients are similar to chocolate – a little is good, but too much is a bad thing



Eutrophication: The process of excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) accelerating the growth of algae in a waterway, which often results in a decrease of oxygen in the waterbody.



Eutrophic Waterways



Nutrient Pollution Is a Serious Problem

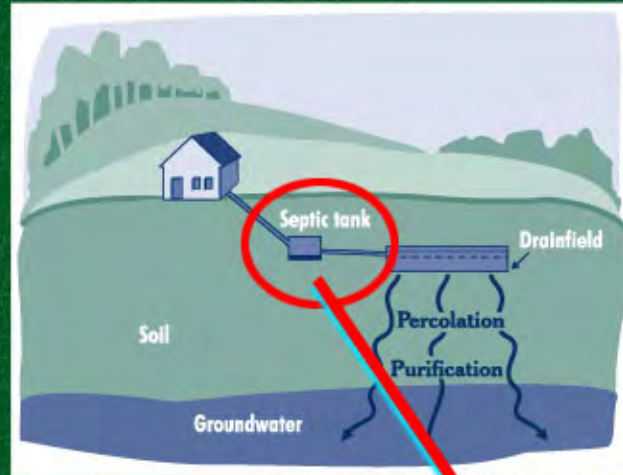
- Waterbodies in almost every state and territory are impacted by nutrient pollution.
- States have identified more than 10,000 waterbody segments impaired by nutrients.

<http://www.epa.gov/waters/ir/>

Top Causes of U.S. Waterbody Impairments

- Mercury
- Pathogens
- Sediment
- Metals
- **Nutrients**

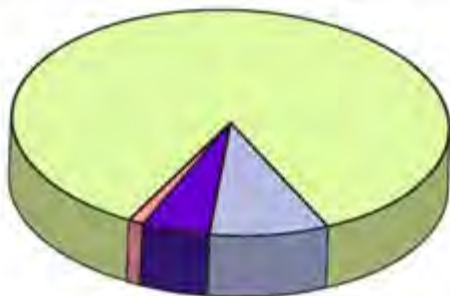
Nutrients that Enter Our Waters Come from a Variety of Sources



And More!

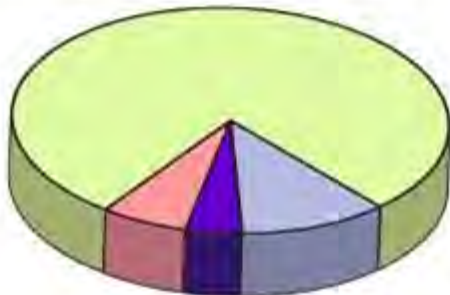
Kinnickinnic River, Wisconsin

Nitrogen Load Sources for Kinnickinnic River Watershed, Wisconsin



Nonpoint Urban - 85%	CSOs - 5%
Industrial - 9%	SSOs - 1%

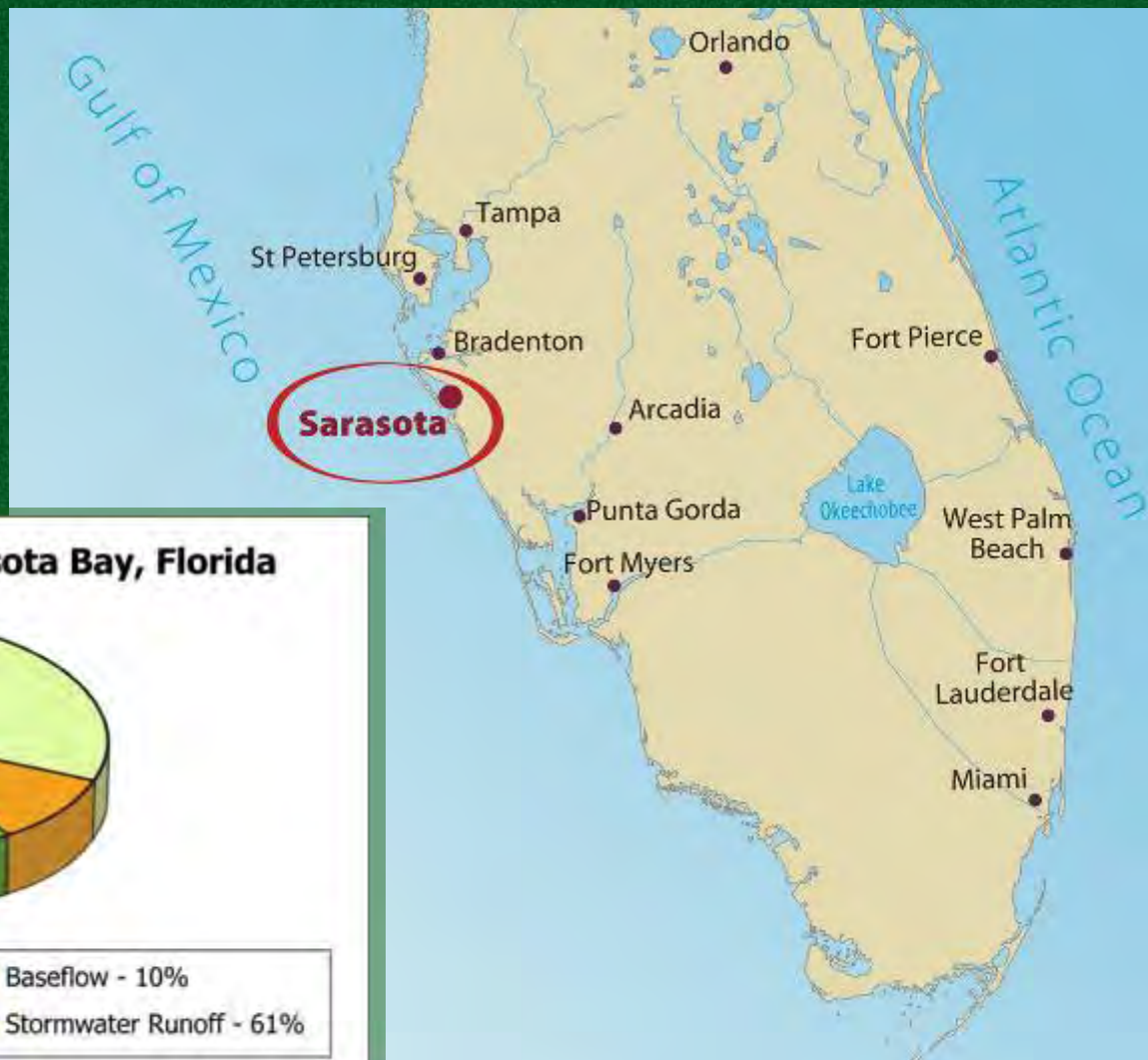
Phosphorus Load Sources for Kinnickinnic River Watershed, Wisconsin



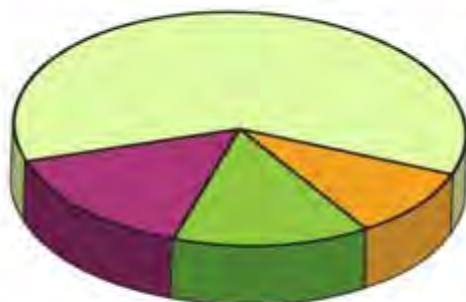
Nonpoint Urban - 78.3%	CSOs - 6.2%
Industrial - 11.3%	SSOs - 4.1%



Sarasota, Florida



Nitrogen Load Sources Sarasota Bay, Florida



Wastewater - 15%	Baseflow - 10%
Atmospheric Deposition - 14%	Stormwater Runoff - 61%

Note: Data taken from Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.
"State of the Bay 2006"

The Chesapeake Bay



Chesapeake Bay Nitrogen Load Sources (2005)

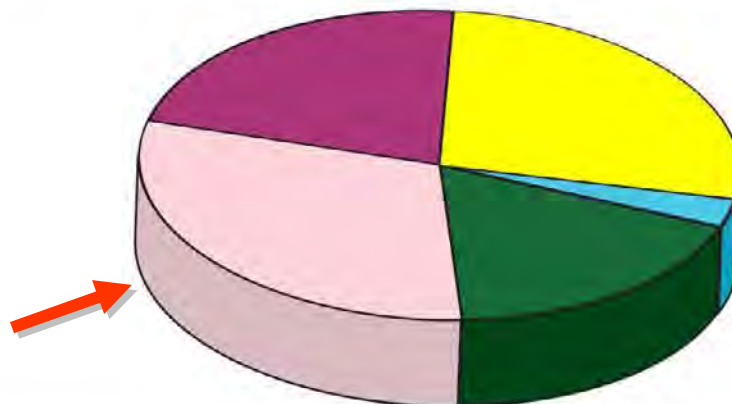


Septic - 4%
Chemical Fertilizer From Agricultural & Urban/Suburban Lands - 26%
Atmospheric Deposition - 33%
Manure from Agricultural Lands - 18%
Municipal and Industrial Wastewater - 19%

Note: Data taken from the Chesapeake Bay Program www.chesapeakebay.net

Chesapeake Bay - Phosphorus

Chesapeake Bay Phosphorus Load Sources (2005)



- Manure (Agriculture) - 27%
- Natural (Wildlife, Forest) - 3%
- Chemical Fertilizer (Agriculture) - 18%
- Fertilizer and Legacy Sediment in Stream Channels (Urban & Suburban Sources) - 30%
- Municipal and Industrial Wastewater - 22%

Note: Data taken from the Chesapeake Bay Program www.chesapeakebay.net

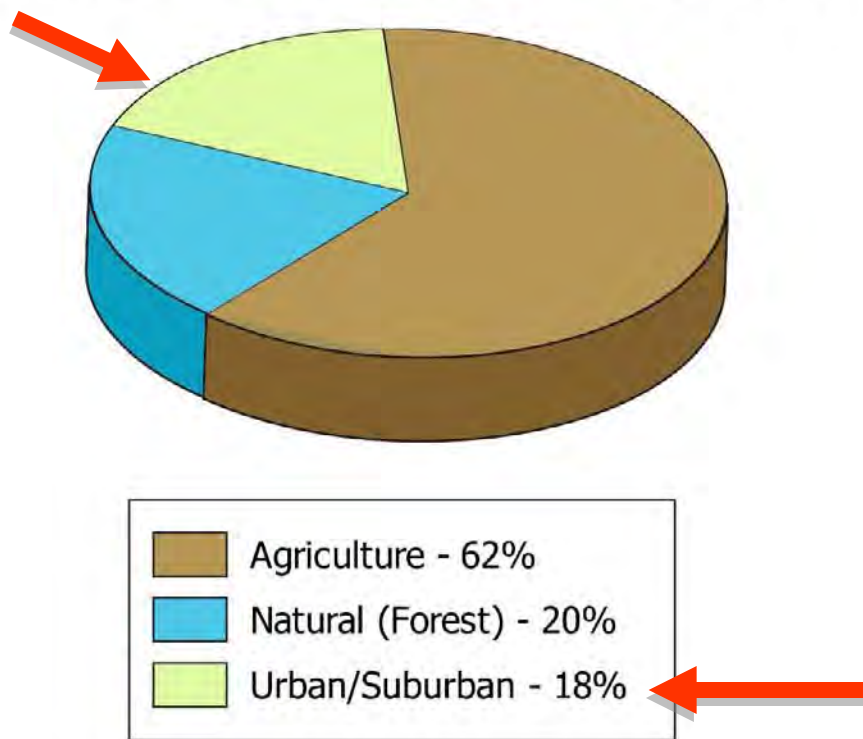
Soil Erosion Also Carries Nutrients to Waterways

Erosion not only washes away valuable soil but carries pollutants, including phosphorus, into waterways.



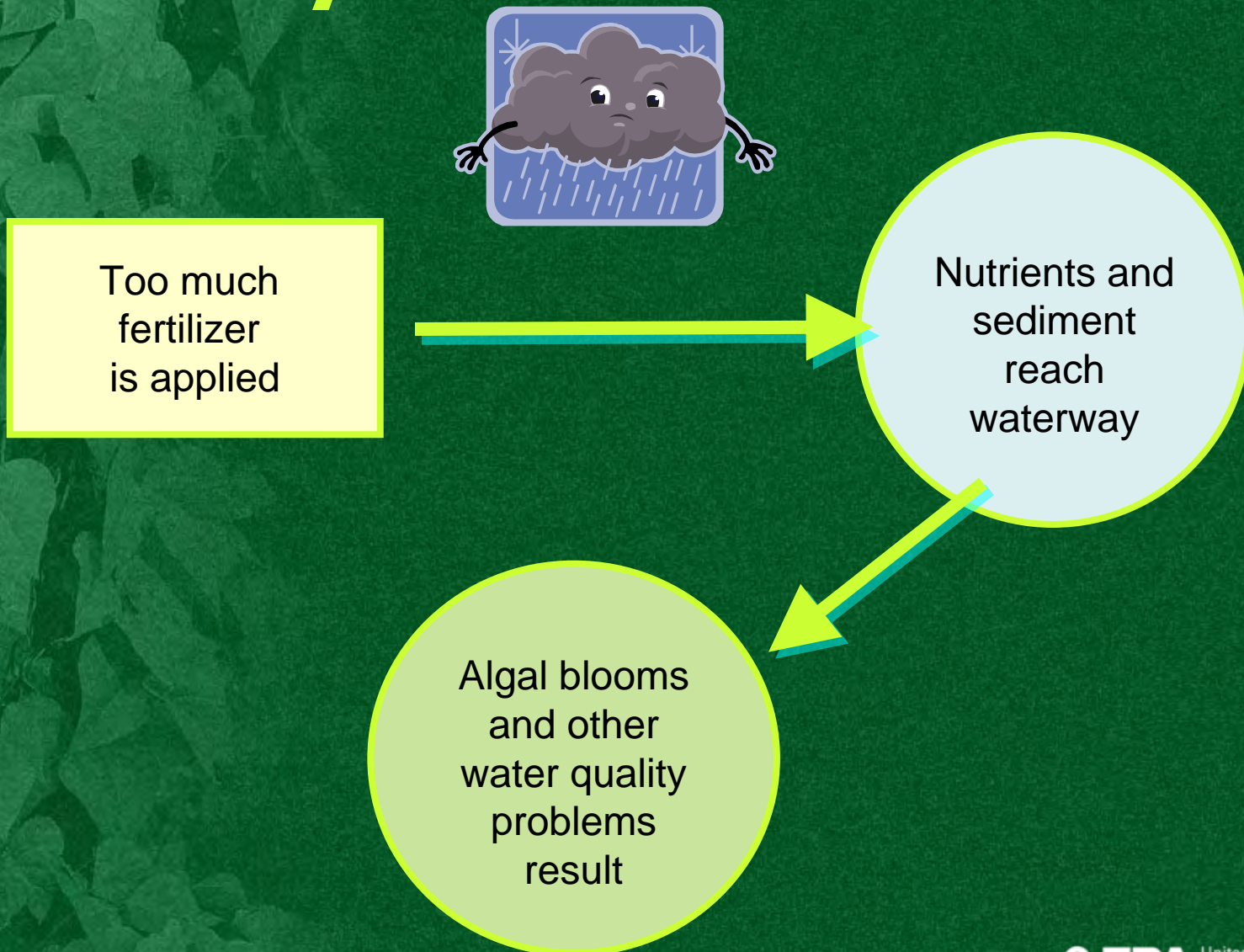
The Chesapeake Bay – Sediment

Chesapeake Bay Sediment Load Sources (2005)



Note: Data taken from the Chesapeake Bay Program www.chesapeakebay.net

Summary



So What Can You do About Nutrient Pollution?

It's simple! Follow these tips:

- 1. Test Your Soil**
- 2. Apply Fertilizer Sparingly**
- 3. Adopt Sustainable Lawn Care Practices**
- 4. Improve Soil Drainage**
- 5. Use Water Wisely**
- 6. Plant Natives**
- 7. Plant Lawn Alternatives**
- 8. Get Involved in Your State's Water Quality Standards!**



Tip#1: Test Your Soil First!

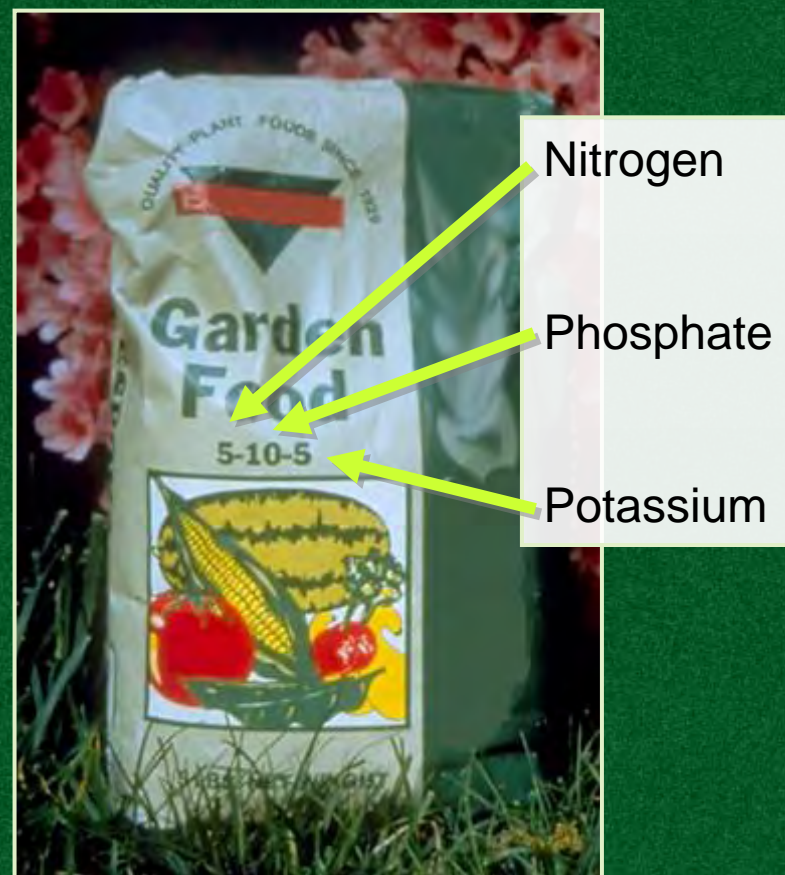
- Soil test results provide specific nutrient levels and the pH of the soil.
- They allow you to make an informed fertilizer selection.
- Where do you get a test kit?
 - Over-the-Counter kits are available at garden centers
 - Tests run by skilled labs are available from local extension offices

60% of Tennessee residents use fertilizer regularly. Only 25% of those who report using fertilizer also used soil tests.



Tip#2: Use Fertilizer Sparingly

- Fertilizer Basics
 - Fertilizer has three numbers on the label
 - 1st number: % nitrogen
 - 2nd number: % phosphorus (or its compound phosphate)
 - 3rd number: % potassium (also listed as potash)
- Your fertilizer selection should address the needs of your soil based on the results of the soil test.



Fertilizer Application Best Practices

- Read the instructions – apply the correct amount at the correct time of year – more is NOT better.
- Match the fertilizer to your plants – the appropriate fertilizer for your roses might not be the correct one for your lawn.
- If there is a forecasted weather event, like high winds or rain, fertilize after the weather event.
- Spread fertilizer only to vegetated areas. Don't fertilize sidewalks, driveways and other paved surfaces! Sweep up spills.
- Leave an unfertilized buffer between a waterway and where fertilizer is applied.



Tip#3: Adopt Sustainable Lawn Care Practices



Select the grass that fits your geographic region

	Cool Season Zone – Fertilize in the Fall	Warm Season Zone – Fertilize in the Late Spring/Early Summer	Transition Zone
Examples:	Fescue, Bluegrass, Ryegrass	Zoysia, Bermuda	Warm or cool season grasses can be selected
Ideal Height	2" – 4"	½" – 1"	
Typical Geographic Region	Throughout Northern United States	Southern United States: Texas to North Carolina and as far north as Tennessee	Between the Cool and Warm zones, running east to west – Virginia to Southern California

Other Lawn Care Tips

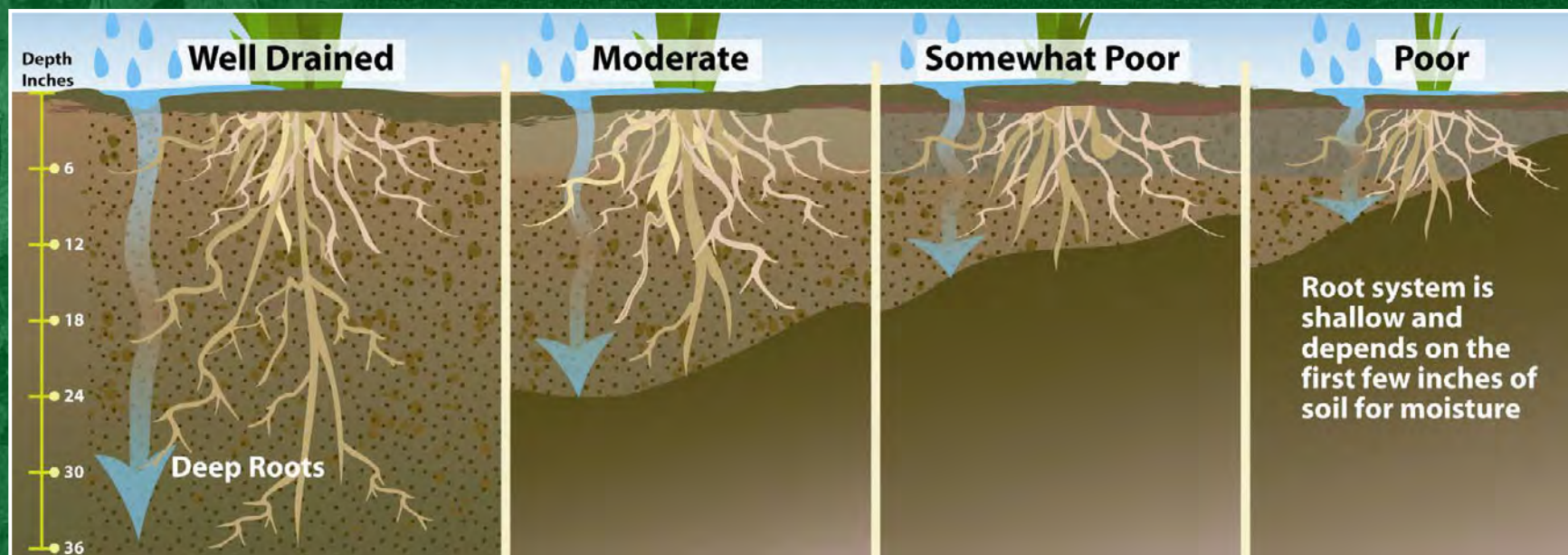


“If grass were harvested as a crop, it would represent one of the United States’ largest commodities (USDA, 1992).”

- Compost grass clippings and leaves.
- Aerate your lawn.
- Use a bagless lawn mower and allow the lawn and leaf clippings to decompose on the lawn.
- Never apply fertilizer, pesticides or herbicides within 10 feet of a stream, creek or other waterway.
- When mowing, only remove the top third of the grass height.
- Plant buffer strips along drainage ditches and waterways.
- Use mulch to reduce the need for fertilizers.

Tip #4: Improve Soil Drainage

- Evaluate the amount of impervious surface on your property. Can it be reduced?
- A well-drained soil creates a good environment for grass, plants and trees to set deep roots and take advantage of deep water and nutrients.



Improve Soil Drainage with Composted Material or Mulch

- The proper soil alterations can help a soil drain faster or slower and increase its nutrient content.
- Well-composted organic material acts as a source of slow release nutrients for plants.
- Thoroughly blend or till compost into the soil.



Tip#5: Use Water Wisely

- Use water in moderation (if at all).
- Water only the places that require moisture.
- Use drip systems or micro-emitters to help keep water and fertilizers in place.
- Water plants “deeply”—encouraging the roots to grow deeper and lessening the need for future watering.
- Water in the early morning or evening and skip watering on windy days.
- Install a rain barrel to use in watering your plants.



Using Water Wisely

- Recycle household water for watering plants instead of pouring it down the drain.

For example:

- Old water in a dog/cat bowl
- Left over water in a glass
- Water used to boil vegetables and wash fruits and vegetables



Want More Tips for Water Conservation? Visit

- EPA Water Sense: www.epa.gov/WaterSense
- EPA Brochure *Make Your Home the Solution to Stormwater Pollution*:
www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/solution_to_pollution.pdf
- Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Information –
www.stormwaterauthority.org/library/view_article.aspx?id=944



Tip#6: Plant Natives

- Reflect the local, natural history
- Provide food and habitat for local and migratory animals
- Reduce the need for chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer
- Are adapted to local climate and soil types

Exotic plants that lack environmental stressors, like disease or pests, will out-compete native plants and will decrease the area's biodiversity.



Did you know that English Ivy is a non-native plant? It spreads aggressively, killing native plants and trees by covering and shading them out. English ivy also hosts bacterial leaf scorch, a plant pathogen that spreads to native elms, oaks, and maples.

Tip #7: Plant Lawn Alternatives

Create a Rain Garden or Bayscape

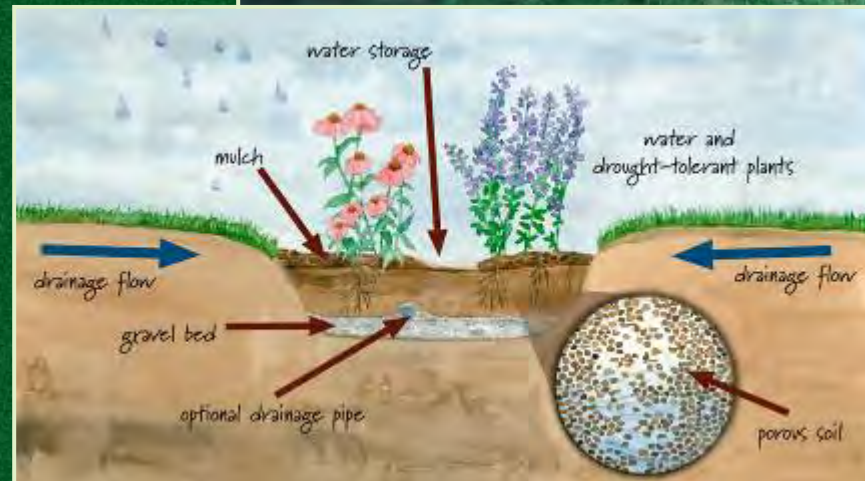
Bayscaping	Rain Garden
Located in dry or moist areas	Located near downspouts and other drainage areas where water collects following a storm
Visually more interesting than a lawn	
Reduces time and expense for mowing, watering, fertilizing and maintaining	
Addresses erosion, poor soil, steep slope or poor drainage problems	
Utilizes native plants	
Reduces stormwater runoff and allows water to slowly percolate through the soil; allows up to 30% more water to percolate through the soil	



Sample Bayscape

Getting Your Rain Garden Started:

- Don't forget the soil test!
- Position the garden downhill of the water source.
- Remember – it is a garden, not a pool.
- Make it a community event!
- Post a sign explaining your rain garden.



Tip #8: Get Involved in Your State's Water Quality Standards!

- Visit EPA's Surf Your Watershed Web site
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

Once you locate your watershed, click on *Citizen-based Groups in Your Watershed* to learn about local ways that you can get involved in water monitoring and other watershed-related activities.




The screenshot shows the 'Surf Your Watershed' web page from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The page has a blue header with the EPA logo and the title 'Surf Your Watershed'. Below the header, there is a search bar with a 'Go' button. A navigation menu includes links for 'Connect Us', 'Search', and 'Find your watershed'. The main content area is titled 'Surf Your Watershed' and contains instructions for finding a watershed. It includes a section for 'Find your watershed' with a dropdown menu for 'Zip Code (5 digit number)' and a 'Submit' button. Below this, there is a section for 'Enter your geographic information' with a 'Submit' button. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Locate by state' with a dropdown menu for 'Choose a state or territory from the map below or the list to the right' and a 'Go' button.

Get Involved in Your State's Water Quality Standards

- Participate in the public review process of your state's water quality standards

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards>



The screenshot shows the EPA's Water Quality Standards website. The header includes the EPA logo and the text "U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY". The main title is "Water Quality Standards". Below the title is a search bar and a navigation menu. The left sidebar contains links to "Water Science Home", "Water Quality Standards Home", "Basic Information", "Where You Live", "Recent Actions", "Laws & Regulations", "Policy & Guidance", "State, Tribal & Territorial Standards", "Database", "Training, Meetings, & Educational Materials", and "Partnership with Tribes". The main content area is divided into several sections: "Basic Information" (importance of standards), "Where You Live" (regional and state specific information), "Recent Actions" (current events), "Laws & Regulations" (legislative and federal requirements), "Policy & Guidance" (library of documents), "Mixing Zone Completion" (collection of links), "State, Tribal & Territorial Standards" (current standards for all waters), "Database" (reports on designated uses), "Training, Meetings, & Educational Materials" (courses and public meetings), "Partnership with Tribes" (establishing standards for tribes), and "Regional Coordinators" (points of contact for states and regions).

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Water Quality Standards

Review & Stream | Surf at U.S. Search:

You are here: [EPA Home](#) > [Water](#) > [State Science](#) > [Water Quality Standards](#) > Home

Water Quality Standards are the foundation of the water quality-based pollution control program mandated by the Clean Water Act. Water Quality Standards define the goals for a waterbody by [designating its uses](#), [setting criteria](#) to protect those uses, and establishing provisions to protect waterbodies from pollutants.

Drinking Water Standards are found elsewhere on our Web site.

[Basic Information](#)
The importance of Water Quality Standards and how they fit into overall water quality protection.

[Where You Live](#)
Regional and state specific information.

[Recent Actions](#)
Learn about current events, public meetings, documents, and actions.

[Laws & Regulations](#)
Collection of legislative and federal requirements.

[Policy & Guidance](#)
Library of documents, notices, and memoranda designed to help states, tribes, & territories comply with federal regulations addressing water quality standards.

[Mixing Zone Completion](#)
This Completion is a collection of links to existing regulatory, guidance, and policy documents on EPA's web site related to mixing zones. It also contains information and links to state and EPA regional information on the subject.

[State, Tribal & Territorial Standards](#)
Detailed information on the current standards for all waters of the U.S.

[Database](#)
Provides access to several reports with information about designated uses, waterbody names, and numeric water quality criteria.

[Training, Meetings, & Educational Materials](#)
We offer courses, conduct public meetings, and provide resources to help you understand the basics and new developments.

[Partnership with Tribes](#)
See how to establish standards for federally recognized tribes.

[Regional Coordinators](#)
Points of contact for specific states and regions.



Synopsis

1. When present in the proper quantities, nutrients and algae are important components of an ecosystem. In excessive amounts, the ecosystem becomes out of balance.
2. Your choice of plants impacts the need for supplemental watering and fertilization.
3. Keeping soil covered with plants or mulch is an important step to protecting water quality.
4. Soil test results will tell you the type of fertilizer that is needed. Always follow the fertilizer application directions.
5. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors!



To Learn More, Visit:

Environmentally Friendly Landscaping:

- Backyard Conservation (Includes Fact Sheets):
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard>
- EPA WaterSense Landscape Irrigation Services:
<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pp/irrprof.htm>
- Florida Friendly Landscaping: <http://www.floridayards.org/>
- Home and Garden Tips:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/highlights/homegarden/lawn.html>



EPA Water Quality Standards and How to Get Involved:

- EPA – Locate Your State Environmental Agency:
<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/state.htm>
- EPA – Water Quality Standards for Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution:
<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nutrient/>
- EPA – Water Quality Standards Online Academy:
<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/academy>
- EPA – National Nutrient Strategy Current Status:
<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nutrient/strategy/status.html>

More Places to Visit:

Rain Gardens:

- The New Jersey Native Plant Society's Rain Garden Manual:
http://www.npsnj.org/rain_garden_home.htm
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – A How-To Manual for Homeowners:
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/documents/rgmanual.pdf>
- Virginia Department of Forestry – Rain Gardens (includes Rain Garden Technical Guides):
<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/rfb/rain-gardens.shtml>
- 10,000 Rain Gardens: <http://www.rainkc.com>