

## How a Rain Barrel Can Help Your Lawn

Rain barrels are built to capture rainwater that goes through the downspout. Not only do rain barrels prevent contaminants from running down the drain into our local waterways, but they also capture healthy water that can be used to give water to your garden or other plants on your lawn!



DUPAGECOUNTY



# DUPAGE COUNTY

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



## SUSTAINABLE LAWN CARE

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# SUSTAINABLE LAWN CARE PRACTICES

## TO LEARN MORE

Visit us at: [www.dupageco.org/swm](http://www.dupageco.org/swm)

— or —

Call us: (630) 407-6673

### What You Should Know About Pesticides

- Weed killers that promise to “magically” wipe out weeds will sometimes try to market their products as natural—but be wary, *they are far from it*.
- A lot of fertilizers will try to push the importance of their product onto consumers. This contradicts what has been researched about fertilizers with a synthetic makeup, which highlights how unnecessary chemicals are to lawns.
- Pesticides can be harmful to integral parts of soil, such as *earth worms*.
- Pesticides are found in a number of fertilizers and they are not only dangerous directly to you but to the world at large.

### Simple Steps in Achieving the Ideal Lawn

- A **soil test** should be conducted every five years at the very least. Evaluating how your soil might have changed throughout the years and different seasons will give you a sense of how to continue to keep your soil healthy and thriving.
- When it comes to fertilizing, it is best to go organic. **Organic fertilizers** are made from plant or animal materials so they prove to be safe and just as effective as fertilizers with potentially dangerous additives.
- Consider planting **native plants** that do not require fertilizer and do not harm or degrade ecosystems.
- Be sure to **avoid overwatering**. About an inch of water should be distributed across your lawn every week.
- When **mowing your lawn**, try to set your mower to have it cut your grass down to 3 inches.

### Remember

- Conduct a soil test every 3 to 5 years.
- Avoid inorganic fertilizers.
- When watering, try to get your water deep into the roots and then proceed to do that routinely but infrequently (once a week).
- Do not excessively mow. It might be a force of habit to mow every week, but it is preventing the root system to strengthen.
- Hand pull or pursue natural formulas to use on your lawn if you're having issues with many weeds.
- Keep in mind the general safety of yourself, your family members, of various animals and plants and, of course, our earth.