

Targeted Weed Control

Crabgrass (annual) - Seeds are not shade tolerant. Keep turf thick by reseeding in the fall and mowing high. If herbicide is necessary, spot treat only with a pre-emergent in early spring.



Quackgrass (perennial) - Rhizomes spread underground. It is best to dig out entire patch and reseed area. Note that only "kill-all" herbicides will kill quackgrass and will also kill anything near it, including healthy lawn.



Broadleaf Weeds - Dandelions, thistles, buckhorn, chicory, clover, creeping Charlie, among others can be dug out. This is most effective in the spring, when root food reserves are at their lowest. Try to dig or cut the roots as deeply as possible (3-5"). Herbicides containing 2, 4-D, MCPP, or Banvel (dicamba) will control most broadleaf weeds. Dicamba should only be used on difficult weeds because it can leach through the soil and absorbed by tree roots, harming or killing the tree. Use before or after gardening season for the same reason. Most broadleaf herbicides are very volatile at temperatures above 80° F and the vapor can drift, injuring nearby plants. These types of herbicides are most effective in the fall.



Final Thoughts

Battling weeds can be time-consuming, frustrating, and expensive. Your best defense against weeds is a landscape plan. This will help determine if grass is the best alternative for the problem areas in your lawn.

Some "weeds" are beneficial but have gotten a bad reputation by commercial fertilizer companies trying to sell products. For instance, White Clover was once highly regarded in lawns for its soft texture and contribution of nitrogen to the soil. It is also attractive to bees and other important pollinators. With its medicinal and produce properties, Dandelions also offer many benefits and are some of the first spring food for bees.



Soil contains thousands of weed seeds and even healthy lawns will have some weeds. Learn to live with a few of them. If weeds start to invade your lawn, examine your maintenance program and make the necessary adjustments to produce a healthier lawn. Remember weak lawns lead to weedy lawn, not vice-versa. If you decide that an herbicide is necessary, consider spot treatments rather than treating the entire yard.

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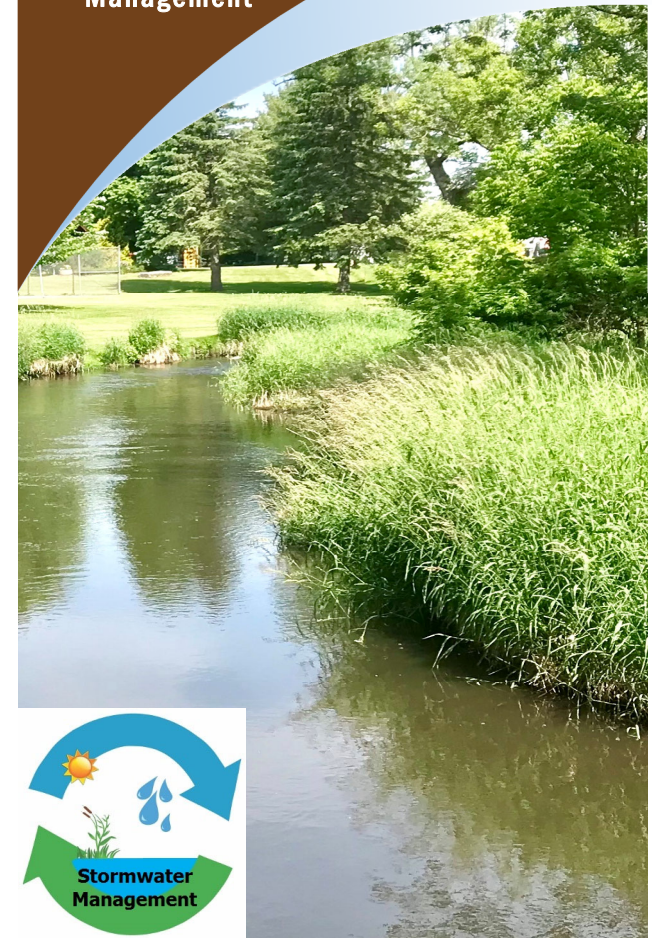
www.villageofbloomfield.com

Got Leaves?

Let's talk about Yard Waste Clean Up.

MS4 Ed Information

- Yard Waste Management



Grass Clippings and Leaves got you down?

Illegal or improper dumping of yard waste in streets, storm drains, wetlands, and waterways pollutes surface waters.

What is Yard Waste?

Yard waste, including leaves and other organic plant material like shrubbery trimmings and grass clippings, are a significant source of stormwater pollution. This debris can clog culverts, storm drains, and pipes, causing flooding. Debris can carry fertilizers and pesticides from your yard and deposit them in streams and ponds. Piles of leaves and grass clipping will overload a stream's ability to process leaf litter, causing nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion.

Proper Yard Waste Management

Do not pile leaves or other yard waste near streams or drainage channels where they can blow or wash into creeks. Use designated leaf collection bags for curbside leaf recycling.

Do not blow leaves or grass clipping off your property into streets, streams, ponds, or drainage swales. If not mulching grass clipping back into your lawn, be sure the mower discharge chute is facing inward away from the road. You may prevent an incident with a motorcycle or bicycle losing traction.

Recycle grass clipping and their nutrients on your lawn. Use a mulching lawnmower to recycle remaining leaves into your lawn in the fall! Doing this adds 20-50% of the nitrogen back into your lawn, limiting the need for fertilizers.

Compost leaves and grass clippings along with yard waste. Select a location removed from streams, ponds, and wetlands.

Fertilizing

Too much fertilizer, not enough fertilizer, or fertilizer applied at the wrong time can weaken your lawn and allow weeds to enter. Your objective is to apply the right amount of fertilizer at the right time.

Apply up to 1lb of nitrogen per 1,000 ft² of lawn in mid-October and again in early June if needed.

Infertile soils can cause the grass to become thin and more susceptible to not only weeds, but attacks from white grubs and other soil-infesting insects. Similarly, too much fertilizer, or fertilizer applied in early spring or early fall, reduces root growth and increases disease problems. Choose a fertilizer that contains very little phosphorus (the middle num-

ber on the bag). Phosphorus (also called "P" or phosphate) is a serious pollutant in lakes and streams.

Weed & Feed Mixes: Many homeowners buy fertilizer/herbicide mixes, which sometime lead to unnecessary herbicide applications. Herbicides are frequently found in the water that flows through storm sewers, most of which empty into the nearest stream. You can help keep our waterways pesticide-free by:

-If you spread granular fertilizer, keep it on the lawn. If granules accidentally land on paved areas, sweep them onto the grass.

-If you use a liquid herbicide, be careful not to overspray the lawn and do not spray on a windy day. The herbicides may land on the street or sidewalk and wash into the storm sewer. They may also drift onto shrubs and sensitive garden plants, or across your property line.

-When cleaning your fertilizer application equipment, do so on the lawn. The rinse water will contain contaminants that you do not running off down the driveway or sidewalk.