Keep your lawn green.
Keep our water clean.

Protect our community.

QUICK TIPS | SPRING YARD CARE

- Choose a low-maintenance grass seed, suitable for New Hampshire's seasonal changes.
- When mowing, keep your grass at least 3" tall to promote deeper roots. This also shades the soil which helps retain moisture and blocks sunlight to stop weed seeds from taking root.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn to return nutrients naturally, or compost excess clippings at home.
- Apply fertilizer sparingly (only when needed) and never before heavy rain.
- Be mindful of storm drains and waterbodies! Don't let your clippings or yard waste reach the water. Pile yard waste at least 25 feet away from a waterbody and never block catch basins, storm drain pipes or culverts.
- Check your community's yard waste collection schedule and practices.
- When in doubt, test your soil! The right soil pH and the right fertilizers makes a healthy lawn.

As part of the USEPA's 2017 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in New Hampshire, the Town of Rollinsford is required to educate residents and businesses on pollution prevention. This fact sheet is intended to fulfill permit requirements.

Visit the UNH Cooperative Extension Webpage for more information

NEW HAMPSHIRE STORMWATER COALITION
COLLABORATION FOR CLEAN WATER

Feed your lawn, not the watershed

Grass clippings and yard debris are naturally rich in key nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, that nourish lush lawns. When grass clippings are left on the lawn, these nutrients return to the soil instead of washing into local waters. Mulching grass is a simple practice that supports your lawn naturally and reduces relying on synthetic fertilizers. You can also compost excess lawn clippings at home for a natural garden fertilizer. Don't let natural nutrients get away! Yard debris and grass clippings that collect along roads and driveways can quickly get washed away when it rains, straight into storm drains and nearby waterbodies. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers and lawn debris can cause problems for New Hampshire's waters. When these nutrients accumulate in lakes, rivers and streams, they cause excessive aquatic plant and algae growth that blocks sunlight and depletes oxygen. This can have a devastating impact on aquatic ecosystems and surrounding habitats. Do your part to make a difference and protect our community: **Keep your lawn green. Keep our water clean.**

The right way to fertilize

In New Hampshire, the best time to fertilize cool-season lawns is in spring (April to mid-June) and especially fall (after Labor Day through early October) when grass is actively growing and can take up nutrients rather than lose them to runoff.

Use slow-release, phosphorus-free fertilizers following the directions on the packaging. Avoid applications just before or during heavy rain or thunderstorms as your fertilizer (and money) will go down the drain. Avoid applications on frozen ground, hard surfaces or dormant lawns. Always follow New Hampshire regulations for setbacks that keep fertilizer and chemicals of any kind (pesticides, herbicides, etc.) away from storm drains and waterbodies to protect water quality.