

## **CARING FOR YOUR YARD THIS SPRING**

Spring is here and with it comes warmer weather, longer days and lots of yard work! Before you head outside to tackle your latest project, remember that what you do on your yard has a direct impact on the environment. This is especially true when it comes to caring for your lawn.

Lawns are notorious for their negative impacts on wildlife as well as local waterways. Luckily there are lots of small steps that you can take as a homeowner to make your yard more eco-friendly!

Consider these tips to reduce stormwater pollution and create wildlife habitat on your property this spring.



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Clean-up: Collect and dispose of any trash that might have blown into your yard over the winter. Mulch or compost leaves and garden cuttings from the fall so that they don't get washed into local streams.



Fertilize Carefully: Look for slow release nitrogen fertilizer which is less likely to harm water quality. Several small fertilizer applications spread out over the growing season is better than one large application. Never apply fertilizer before it rains!



Plant Natives: Spring is a great time to plant native trees, shrubs and perennials! Native PA species require less maintenance, are more beneficial for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than non-natives.



Mow Sharp and High: A sharp mower blade cuts grass cleanly which improves turf health. Set your mower deck to 2.5" or more to help reduce stormwater runoff. Consider converting a section of your lawn to native garden!