



Turf Management

IN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

Turf management involves mowing, fertilization, pesticide application, and supplemental irrigation, where needed. These services are generally performed by a lawn care/landscaping contractor or an in-house maintenance crew. Poor turf management practices have the potential to create stormwater pollution, particularly in urban areas where soils are compacted.

Potential pollutants generated by poor turf management include nutrients, herbicides, organic carbon and sediment. In addition, poor irrigation practices result in non-target irrigation. Turf management practices are implemented by educating, training and certifying workers in the lawn care industry.



Non target Irrigation sprinklers are also watering the pavement.



Turf management often involves the application of chemicals.

Pollution prevention opportunities include:

- Evaluate whether some or all of the turf area can be managed as meadow or forest. If so, consider watershed reforestation techniques.
- Sweep any grass clippings away from paved surfaces after mowing.
- Use mulching type mowers to return grass clippings to the lawn.
- Never apply fertilizers or pesticides within 2 metres of pavement, 8 metres of a storm drain inlet, or 16 metres of a stream or water body.
- Consider a low or no fertilizer approach to maintain turf.
- Select a reputable lawn care or landscape service that uses organic fertilizers and natural pest management techniques.
- Perform a soil test to determine actual fertilization need and set application rates.
- Calibrate fertilizer spreaders to avoid excessive application. Do not apply fertilizer just prior to predicted rainfall events or on wet turf.
- Do not prepare herbicides or pesticides for application near storm drains.
- Minimize off-target application of fertilizers, and leave a no-application zone for fertilizer and pesticides around streams and lakes.
- Work fertilizers into the soil rather than just applying onto the surface.
- Reduce water needs during the hot summer months by adjusting grass to an increased height.
- Consider turf alternatives, such as native or low-water, cool-season turf grasses.
- Select grass species that will best meet the requirements and purposes of the lawn area.
- If you use a service provider, add language to protect water quality in the maintenance contract.
- Do not dump clippings or other waste in adjacent woodlands, fields or ravines.
- Fertilizer should not be used around hydrants, if there is a break material can be washed into storm sewer.