LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE

Landscape maintenance activities include vegetation removal, herbicide and insecticide application, fertilizer application, irrigation, and other lawn care practices. Each of these activities has the potential to add pollution into the storm drain system, eventually reaching our local water-bodies.

This factsheet describes good house-keeping practices to use in order to minimize the discharge of chemicals, landscape waste, and other pollutants into the storm drain system. These techniques will protect water quality and enhance quality of life in the borough.

Keep in Mind

- Landscape waste in the storm drain system, *as shown on the left*, is considered littering.
- What you put on your landscape does not necessarily stay there, especially during rain events.
- You can obtain “Kraft” bags from the borough to fill with yard waste and dispose of with the normal trash. Or large debris can be taken to the Warwick Township compost facility for a small fee.

Pollution Prevention Techniques

- Consider leaving grass clippings on the lawn during mowing. They decompose quickly and release valuable nutrients back into the lawn.
- Collect lawn and garden clippings, tree trimmings, and weeds. Chip if necessary, then cost or dispose at an approved facility. Do not dispose into waterways or storm drains.
- Avoid landscape waste in and around storm drain inlets by either bagging equipment or manually picking up the material. If this debris gets into the storm drain it can clog the system and cause flooding issues.

Pesticide Management

- Select plants with fewer known pests. This will reduce the need for chemical pesticides.
- Use integrated pest management (IPM) to deal with pests. IPM combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to reduce the impact to non-target organisms and the environment.
- Mulching can be used to prevent weeds and help with water retention.

Irrigation

- Use automatic timers, where practical, to prevent overwatering and minimize runoff.
- Irrigate slowly or pulse irrigation to prevent runoff, and then only irrigate as much as needed.
- Keep an eye on the weather and avoid irrigating before or after a rain event.

Fertilizer Use

- Periodically test soils to dertemine proper fertilizer requirements.
- Work the fertilizer into the soil, rather than dump or broadcast it onto the surface.
- Consider the use of organic fertilizers, which may have less of an impact on the environment.

Conduct appropriately timed fertilizing, weeding, pest control, and pruning to preserve water efficiency and water quality, as well as save time and money.