



Stormwater Management

Fact Sheet

Landscape Maintenance

Yard waste, sediment, chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides used in commercial and residential landscape maintenance often make their way into the storm drainage system and do not get treated before reaching our local waterways. This pollutes our drinking water and contaminates local waterways. By using proactive techniques that reduce pollution at the source, your business will prevent stormwater pollution, comply with regulations, and protect public health.

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are general guidelines that keep landscapes visually attractive while conserving our water resources, reducing pollution, and protecting our environment. By implementing the following BMPs you can help provide an environmentally friendly service to Cobb County citizens while visually enhancing landscapes and promoting a healthy, natural environment.

Design

Integrate native, low maintenance, and insectary (attract beneficial insects) plants.

Design zoned, water-efficient irrigation systems using technologies such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or microspray.

Riparian areas should not be landscaped except to remove non-native plants and replace them with native riparian landscaping.

Do not drain roof or lawn runoff directly into streams via piping. Allow the stormwater to flow over vegetative areas to naturally filter stormwater before it reaches streams.

Installation

Protect materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.

Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.

Use temporary check dams or ditches to divert runoff away from storm drains.

Protect storm drains with sandbags or other sediment controls.

Keep soils covered with vegetation or mulch to control erosion

Maintenance

Grass clippings, pruning waste, and leaf drop can be composted, left on the ground for mulch, or taken to yard waste recycling. Do not leave clippings on pavement or sidewalks.

Do not dump, blow, or rake leaves or other yard waste into the street, gutters, storm drains, detention ponds, or drainage ditches.

Perform soil analysis seasonally to determine actual fertilization need and application rates.

Use a slow-release fertilizer with low or no phosphorus.

Use a tarp under the spreader when filling or emptying to prevent spills.

Do not apply fertilizer on lawn areas within 10 feet of water's edge.

Use soil probes to determine moisture levels and the need to adjust irrigation schedules accordingly.

Store all chemicals indoors. Dispose of unused pesticides as hazardous waste.

Control the amount of water and direction of sprinklers. Sprinklers should not be on long enough to cause runoff. Avoid watering impervious surfaces.



Limit irrigation to just twice per week in the summer and once per week in the winter. Install a rain shut-off device.

Pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides must never be applied before or during rain. Do not apply within 100 feet of surface waters and stormwater ditches.

Cobb County and Georgia Code

The dumping, throwing, draining, running, or otherwise discharging of yard waste, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, pet waste, sediment, garbage, and debris to the stormwater drainage system and any surface water is a violation of Cobb County Code Sections 50-112a, 50-191a, 102-92a, and/or 110-61f.

To learn more about stormwater issues in Cobb County, please call 770-419-6435 or visit www.cobbwater.org.

This is an official publication of the Cobb County Water System, an agency of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.