



Mille Lacs Lake Watershed
Management Group

www.millelacswatershed.org

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TOPIC OF THE MONTH - JANUARY 2017

5 ways to reduce nutrients in lakes and streams

There are simple things that property owners on lakes and streams can do to reduce the amount of nutrients entering the water body they live on. The top 5 are listed below.

Use no-phosphorus fertilizer on lawns and gardens

Be sure to check the bags when you buy them. Look for the package formula of nitrate-phosphorus-potassium, such as 22-0-15. The middle number, representing phosphorus, should be 0.

Keep grass clippings in the lawn

When mowing the grass, avoid blowing grass clippings onto hard surfaces, where they wash into lakes and rivers.



Keep leaves and other organic matter out of the water

Avoid piling leaves, grass clippings, and pet waste where they might drain to rivers and lakes.

Sweep it

Sweep up any grass clippings or fertilizer spills on driveways, sidewalks and streets.

Leave a wide strip of deep-rooted plants along shoreland

Instead of planting and mowing turfgrass here, plant wildflowers, ornamental grasses, shrubs or trees. These plantings absorb and filter runoff that contains nutrients and soil, as well as provide habitat for wildlife.

Governor Dayton has encouraged all Minnesotans to take a role in protecting our state's most precious resource for future generations. The Governor called on Minnesotans to affirm their commitment to rethinking how water impacts daily life and the lives of future generations; use water efficiently and wisely in everyday activities; learn more about what individuals can do to protect and preserve water; make informed consumer choices; and to talk to one another about water protection and preservation. For more information on Governor Dayton's Year of Water Action Initiatives visit www.mngov.governor/issues/wateraction.

