

# FALL CLEAN UP TIPS

**DO:** Reduce or discontinue use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and herbicides. Consider natural or slow-release alternatives instead that feed plants slowly and evenly over the growing season. No matter the treatment, always apply as directed and avoid overuse.

**DON'T:** Unnecessarily treat your lawn with multiple treatments of nutrient-heavy fertilizers.

**DO:** Dispose of grass clippings properly, or better yet, leave the clippings on your lawn to release nutrients back into the soil. Be mindful of topsoil and sediment running off during landscaping or construction projects.

**DON'T:** Allow topsoil and other debris contaminates to enter our storm water system.

**DO:** Take a moment to sweep or rake leaves and branches out of the street in front of your house.

**DON'T:** Left in the street, they can clog storm drains, contributing to localized flooding. When washed into nearby lakes, rivers and streams via storm drains or ditches, the leaves become a major source of phosphorus, the nutrient that allows algae to bloom in the summer.

**DO:** Dispose of leaves by composting them in your yard, bringing them to your community compost facility or bagging them for curbside pick-up.

**DON'T:** Put leaves and yard waste in the regular garbage, and never dump them in wetlands or buffer areas – it's illegal!

**Consider** reducing your workload by using a mulching lawn mower to mulch leaves into your yard. It is less time intensive than raking and the shredded leaves act as a natural fertilizer during the fall.

