Getting some yard work done? Do it with less pollution!

We all love a green and healthy yard with no weeds or harmful insects. In order to achieve this, most of us apply fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Every time it rains or we improperly water the lawn, it can cause runoff. This runoff goes directly to our creeks and lakes through our storm drain system carrying all of the chemicals used outside around your home.

Fertilizers contain nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. If applied properly they can help you achieve a beautiful lawn. Here are a few ways to help keep excess chemicals out of our local waterways:

- Choose slow-release fertilizers to minimize chemical loss.
- Read directions carefully in order to apply the proper amount.
- Never apply prior to a rain event!
- Plant native! These tend to need little to no supplemental nutrients.
- Mow frequently and do not bag the clippings or leave them in the street.

Leave the grass clippings on your lawn to provide nutrients, which enables you to use less fertilizer.

Insecticides, herbicides and fungicides are used to treat unwanted insects and plants. Please use them wisely and follow these quidelines:

- Identify the problem first and look to non-toxic solutions.
- Limit and carefully apply any chemicals.
- Spot treat if possible as widespread application of pesticides can kill beneficial insects.
- Remove weeds by hand, making sure to remove the root system.

Store and dispose of these chemicals in a proper manner to protect our environment. Never store chemicals outside without some type of cover or shelter. For disposal of chemicals, please drop off at the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center. This service is free for all of our Garland residents. Please note, the Garland Recycling Center located on Commerce Street cannot by law accept these type of materials.

Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center 11234 Plano Road HOURS OF OPERATION: Tuesday 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wed & Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. | 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

