

# CULTIVATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

*a healthy environment*

**Cool or Warm Weather Grass:** Know your grass so you can mow it and fertilize it the way it likes. Warm-season grasses, like Bermuda grass and zoysiagrass like to be fertilized in the summer but cool weather grasses like fescue, Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass like to be fertilized in September – November. If you don't know what type grass you have, ask your Extension Agent or a landscape professional.



**1 MOW HIGH**  
Keep grass fairly long to retain grass density and shade out annual weeds. 2 to 3 inches for cool season grasses and 1 – 1 ½ inches for warm season grasses. Don't mow more than 1/3 of the blade at one time.

**3 USE SHARP BLADES**  
Keep your mower blade sharp to get the best results from each mowing. A sharp blade cuts grass cleanly, while a dull blade tears grass. Be sure to keep the blades clean after each use.

**2 MOW FREQUENTLY**  
It's important to mow frequently to avoid stressing the grass. Never cut more than one-third of the blade in a single mowing.

**4 KEEP CLIPPINGS ON LAWN**  
Clippings and mowed leaves return nutrients and moisture to the soil, helping your grass grow and reducing erosion and runoff. Grass clippings alone can contribute 25% of the annual nutrients and one-third of the annual moisture needed.

## A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY. USE FERTILIZER SPARINGLY AND CARINGLY.



### WATER WISELY

Watering properly will help your lawn grow deep roots that make it stronger and less vulnerable to drought. It's best to water slowly and deeply only when the lawn needs it. Frequent shallow watering trains the roots to stay near the surface.



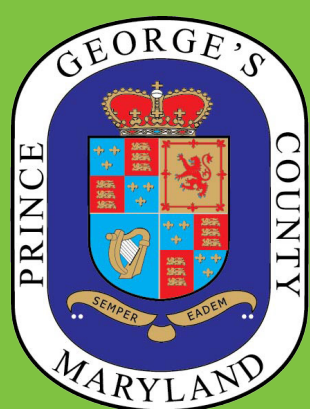
### FERTILIZE WISELY

Too much fertilizer weakens the lawn, makes it vulnerable to pests, creates thatch and pollutes streams. If rain is predicted in the next 24 hours, don't fertilize. Don't fertilize between November 15 and March 1 — It's the law!



### TEST YOUR SOIL

Many lawns do not need fertilizer — so always get a soil test first. To protect water quality, MD law prohibits phosphorous in lawn fertilizer and limits the amount of nitrogen that can be applied.



For information on MD's Lawn Fertilizer Law, go to [www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer). For a lawn maintenance calendar, fertilizer instructions, weed Id and more, go to <http://extension.umd.edu/hgic/plants/lawns>.