

FOLIAGE & FERTILIZER

FALL IS FOR SEEDING, FERTILIZING, AND MANAGING LEAVES

The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy would like to remind you of the importance of preventing stormwater pollution while you make the most of the fall season. Stormwater is formed when rainwater makes its way into storm drains or runs off our properties directly into streams picking up harmful substances that pollute our waterways. This autumn we need your help to control stormwater pollution that is unique to the season while preparing your lawns for the weather ahead. Here are some tips to help you protect your plants, trees, and streams.

TIPS

- 1** **Dispose of leaf litter and yard waste in a compost pile and never in the street or stream.** Shred waste to use as mulch or fertilizer. Look for yard waste collection opportunity in your municipality.
- 2** **Do not use fertilizers immediately before a rainstorm and do not apply them in excess.** Always follow the directions on the bottle for application and disposal. Excess fertilizer can not be absorbed by the soil and will wash away with the rain.
- 3** **Protect young trees on your property by covering trunks with ventilated tree tubes or tree guards.** Young trees are particularly vulnerable to grazing and deer rub so protecting the trunks will improve their survival.
- 4** **Prune your summer perennials in your rain garden, bioswale, or garden.** After the first frost cut back dry stems of perennials to soil level. This will extend the life of your plants, improve the health of your garden, and showcase winter perennials.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES GUIDE TO PREP FOR FALL