

## Grass Clippings Disposal

Bag it into biodegradable bags & leave it adjacent to the front property line to be picked up by the Solid Waste Department. (See [Ordinance 03-O-54](#))

- Leave it on your lawn! The nitrogen from the grass clippings will add one to two pounds of nitrogen a year to each thousand square feet of lawn. Grass clippings can supply 25% of a lawn's total fertilizer needs.
- Use them as garden mulch to discourage weeds, retain soil moisture, and reduce erosion. The grass eventually decomposes, adding organic matter and plant nutrients to the soil.



Blowing or leaving grass clippings in the street during yard maintenance not only looks bad, but can also clog the city's storm water drain system.

When the drains are clogged with clippings and debris, rain and storm water can back up and flood homes and property.

Stormwater is not cleaned or treated, so when storm drains are used as a dumping ground, the results can be disastrous—and smelly.

---

## Fertilizer Usage Information

Proper fertilizer application is important. When it comes to fertilizer, *more is not better!* Too much fertilizer means rapid growth and more mowing.

Always test your soil to verify the need and type of fertilizer before you fertilize. Contact the Rutherford County UT Extension Office (615) 898-7710 for a [basic soil test](#).

Follow manufacturers' instructions when applying and avoid applying fertilizers before heavy rains.

Nitrogen and phosphorus are natural parts of aquatic ecosystems. However, when too much enters the environment, the air and water can become polluted.

**Too much nutrient pollution can cause:**

- Fish kills and harmful algal blooms
- Health problems
- "Dead zones" devoid of aquatic life

**The primary sources of nutrient pollution are:**

- runoff of fertilizers
- animal manure
- sewage treatment plant discharges
- stormwater runoff
- car and power plant discharges
- stormwater runoff
- car and power plant emissions
- failing septic tanks



The impacts of nutrient pollution are found in all types of water bodies. Pollutants often enter upstream waters like creeks and streams, and then flow into larger water bodies like lakes and rivers.

***Thank you for your continued support for our community and efforts to keep our water clean!***

For more information, check out the City of Murfreesboro's [Solid Waste Ordinance](#).

If you have any questions about the Stormwater Program, contact [Robert Haley](#) at (615) 848-3200.