



## How can I test my lawn's soil?

To determine the type and how much fertilizer your lawn or garden will need, send a soil sample to your local UT Extension office. It's easy!

### UT Extension - Williamson County Ag Expo Park

4215 Long Lane, Suite 200  
Franklin, TN 37064  
(615) 790-5721

### UT Extension - Soil, Plant, & Pest Center—Ellington Ag Center

5201 Marchant Drive  
Nashville, TN 37211  
(615) 832-5850

**City of Franklin—Engineering**

109 Third Avenue South Suite 133  
Franklin, TN 37064

# Responsible Yard Maintenance

Helpful hints to ensure routine yard maintenance does not negatively impact water quality.



CITY OF FRANKLIN  
**STORMWATER**  
MANAGEMENT

## Fertilizer

Fertilizers are useful when you need to help your lawns and plants grow, but when too much is added the excess fertilizer can be carried into streams and rivers by stormwater runoff.

Nutrients like **phosphorous, nitrogen, and potassium**, which make up fertilizer, can cause excessive algae growth in waterways. These algal blooms can be harmful to water quality, wildlife, and humans.

### How can you help reduce nutrient pollution?

1. Determine if fertilizer is necessary and what kind of fertilizer you'll need by testing the soil.
2. Don't apply fertilizers just before or during rain.
3. Apply fertilizers in recommended amounts - Don't over fertilize!
4. Don't use fertilizers near waterways.
5. Blow/sweep any excess fertilizer off of driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Reapply sweepings to your yard if possible.



## Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste and tree trimmings. Compost, use curbside pick-up, or dispose at your local solid waste facility.
- Keep the clippings. Don't blow your yard waste into the road. Instead, mulch them into the yard! They can supply up to 50% of the nitrogen your grass needs.
- Prevent erosion by temporarily or permanently stabilizing bare soil with seed and straw or sod.
- Ensure all chemicals and fuels are in covered storage. Clean up any spilled material.
- Take unwanted chemicals to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center to be recycled.
- Don't overwater. Use irrigation practices such as drip irrigation on, soaker hoses or micro spray systems. Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.
- Avoid mowing with the discharge chute facing toward the road or drainage ditches. Instead, mow toward the center of the lawn.
- Repair leaking equipment. Absorb fluids and recycle or dispose of them properly.

The City of Franklin Sanitation and Environmental Services Division coordinates brush and yard waste collection. Visit their website for more information.

## Spill Response

- Accidents do happen. If one occurs, clean the material up immediately or contact a spill response company.
- Contact the **City of Franklin Engineering Department** if the spill enters any storm drain, ditch line, or stream channel.
- **If it is an emergency call 911!**
- Remember **ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN**. Don't dump any materials into ditches or storm drains, they all flow to our stream and rivers.



## Contact Us

City of Franklin Engineering Department  
109 Third Avenue South Suite 133  
Franklin, TN 37064

(615) 791-3218

Visit us on the web:

[www.franklin.gov/government/engineering/stormwater](http://www.franklin.gov/government/engineering/stormwater)