



The WaterSpout

Striving for the Perfect Lawn May Not Be the Answer

With summer in full swing, many of us are spending more time in our yards playing with our kids, cooking out with friends, or tending to our gardens. While a lush, green lawn may seem like a must, it might not be a realistic expectation for every yard. Efforts to make your yard something out of the pages of a *Southern Living* magazine can negatively impact the environment, will likely cost a fair amount of money and take up a lot of time, and may still be unsuccessful. Rather than striving for the perfect lawn, consider focusing on the *health* of your lawn-- which will benefit you and the environment.

Caring for your lawn properly can both enhance its appearance and contribute to its environmental benefits. Environmentally sensible lawn care can have a bigger impact than one might think. Your lawn may only be a small piece of land, but all the lawns across the County cover a lot of ground. That means that your lawn care activities, along with everybody else's, can make a difference to our local environment. Taking care of the environment begins in your own backyard.

Like with your own health care, it is essential to prevent problems from occurring so you don't have to treat them after they've become an issue. A healthy lawn can out-compete most weeds, survive most insect attacks, and fend off most diseases before any of these problems get the upper hand.

Your lawn care program should be tailored to local conditions. Know your soil type and typical rainfall amounts and have your soil tested periodically to understand what your soil needs and in what quantities. The Chatham County Extension/UGA Cooperative Extension provides soil testing to the citizens of Chatham County (for more information: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/chatham/anr/SoilTest.html>). Whatever your soil type, you can improve it by periodically adding organic matter like compost, manure, or grass clippings in lieu of using fertilizer.

If you fertilize your lawn, it's important to not over-fertilize which can harm your lawn and local waterbodies as excess fertilizer is carried away with stormwater runoff. Fertilizer contains high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus which, when not absorbed by plants or grass, makes its way into the storm system and can cause algae blooms and fish kills in local waterbodies. It can also create a heavy layer of thatch-- a layer of dead plant material between the grass blades and the soil--which can prevent water and nutrients from penetrating down to the soil and grass roots when too deep.

Don't be tempted to rely solely on pesticides as a quick-fix solution to problems with pests in your lawn. Serious, ongoing pest problems are often a sign that your lawn is not getting everything it needs. Ultimately, you need to correct the underlying problem to reduce the chance that the pest will reappear.

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Water Restrictions are Still in Effect

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It is important to remember that there are permanent outdoor watering restrictions for all of Chatham County. These restrictions remain in effect during both declared drought and non-drought periods.

The following outdoor watering schedules apply for all of Chatham County:

- The use of outdoor water is not allowed between **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**;
- No watering is allowed on **Fridays**;

Outdoor watering allowed between 4:01 PM– 9:59 AM						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses	X	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses



Thanks to Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation's *Live Well. Be Well.* initiative, Forsyth Farmers' Market has created **Farm Truck 912**, a mobile farmers' market that brings local fruits and vegetables to Savannah neighborhoods with the least access to healthy food.

Farm Truck 912 both *accept* and *double* SNAP/EBT benefits and offer health and nutrition opportunities!

The current Farm Truck stops include:

FARM TRUCK 912

Current Schedule

Monday

WW Law Library / 909 E Bolton St.

12:00-2:00pm

Tuesday

Skidaway Island / 1 W Ridge Rd.

12:30-2:00pm

Daffin Park / 1301 E. Victory Dr.

3:00-5:30pm

Wednesday

Savannah Gardens / 515 Pennsylvania Ave.

1:00-2:30pm

Lady Bamford / 1410 Richards St.

3:30-5:15pm

Thursday

CITGO Sheppard's Gas & Food Mart / 1302 W Gwinnett St.

12:30-2:00pm

West Broad Street YMCA / 1110 May St.

3:00-5:30pm

Sunday

Jewish Educational Alliance / 5111 Abercorn St.

11:00-1:00pm

Last updated: 1/15/2018

Striving for the Perfect Lawn: May Not Be the Answer

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Remember, all pesticides are toxic to some degree. This means that they can pose risks to you, your children and pets, and to the wildlife that venture onto your lawn-- especially if these pesticides are overused or carelessly applied. Pesticides can kill earthworms and other beneficial organisms, disrupting the ecological balance of your yard as well. A healthy lawn is likely to have some weeds or insects, but it will also have beneficial insects and other organisms that help keep pests under control.

For more lawn care practices, check out our Landscape, Lawncare, and Garden BMP manual at https://mpcnaturalresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/LANDSCAPE_BMP.pdf

Water Quality

Water quality is essential to our economy and the quality of life in Chatham County. Water from the Savannah River supplies many of our industries and an increasing number of residential areas. The estuaries function as nurseries for many commercially important species, and the health of the estuaries can have profound effects on the local fishing industry. In addition, most residents of Chatham County enjoy some form of recreation that involves local water resources including fishing, canoeing, birding or swimming, all of which are enhanced by a healthy and protected waterway.

Water pollution is often blamed on industry, manufacturers and water treatment plants. Pollution from these types of direct sources is called “point source pollution” because the pollution comes from one particular point, such as a pipe emptying into a river. Point source pollution has been greatly regulated and reduced over the past 25 years due to the Clean Water Act. Any discharge into State waters now requires a permit and the site is monitored for pollutants on a regular basis.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the leading cause of water pollution in the United States is now “non-point source pollution” (NPS). NPS pollution comes from everywhere and from all of us. Rainwater runs over the land and carries contaminants such as fertilizers, pesticides, and trash into our streams, rivers, lakes and estuaries. NPS pollution can include runoff contaminants from roads, sediment from construction sites, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and agriculture, and oil, litter and other waste that is dumped into storm drains. Since NPS pollution comes from so many different sources and locations, it is difficult to control. It is up to all of us to prevent NPS pollution.

WE ALL CAN PREVENT NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION!

- Keep litter and debris out of the environment and out of storm drains.
- Apply garden chemicals at the proper time and in the proper amounts.
- Dispose or recycle used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other chemicals properly.
- Control soil erosion by planting ground cover or utilizing silt fences.
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped at least every 3-5 years.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly in the garbage.

Non-Point Source Pollution

Effects of Non-point Source Pollution

- Closed recreation areas and beaches due to Enterococci and E. coli levels
- Plant and algal growth from increased nitrate levels from detergents used for washing cars
- Tainted seafood due to algal blooms from excess nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus
- Oily film or foul smelling wetlands from leaking boats and cars
- Sick or declining bird populations due to improperly used pesticides
- Fish dying from sediment clogged gills or lack of oxygen due to excessive algae growth
- * Aquatic life fleeing or dying due to increased salt levels



It's Almost Earth Day Savannah!

Spring is right around the corner and you know what that means...Earth Day Savannah in Forsyth Park! For those that have never been, Earth Day Savannah is a celebration of environmentally responsible living and business in coastal Georgia. It's an opportunity for local government, businesses, non-profits, and community groups to connect with the public and each other. There will be a wide variety of exhibitors, with something for everyone— young and old.

For additional information, go to: www.earthdaysavannah.org

Chatham County-Savannah

Metropolitan Planning Commission

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Saturday, April 21
11am - 4pm
Forsyth Park



Forsyth Farmers' Market

Every Saturday at the south end of Forsyth Park
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Check out our new and improved
MPC Natural Resources website!!

<https://mpcnaturalresources.org/>

Support local farmers, and improve your health by shopping at the Forsyth Farmers' Market. Select from a variety of fresh, regional produce sold by farmers, and take advantage of nutritional information and demonstrations offered at the health pavilion. EBT cards are accepted. Please visit:

www.forsythfarmersmarket.org

for more information.

