

ECO-AGENT



WHAT YOU OTTER KNOW ABOUT YARD CARE

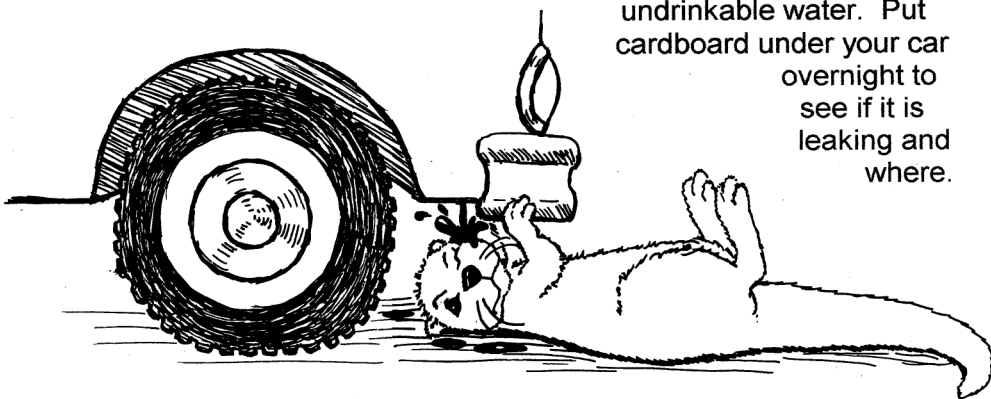
HERE IS HOW YOUR FAMILY CAN...

- reduce runoff of contaminants
- maintain a healthy lawn
- prevent erosion
- help keep water sources clean and wildlife healthy
- reduce NPS from the yard
- save money

Yards, driveways and other ground around a home are sources of nonpoint source pollution which each of us can prevent by learning and practicing a few simple yard management rules.

MOW LAWN GRASSES HIGH - Recommended height is 2 1/2 inches with a raised height during peak summer months. Leaving the grass higher will encourage deeper rootings and lessen the need for water and fertilizer.

CHECK UNDER YOUR FAMILY'S CAR AND FIX SOME POLLUTION PROBLEMS: Even small leaks of gasoline and petroleum products have serious consequences. When entering groundwater they can make the water unsafe for drinking. Motor oil leaking onto a driveway will runoff into ground or surface water and eventually into your glass. Oil or gasoline leaks are easily detected and fixed and will make a big difference between clean water and undrinkable water. Put cardboard under your car overnight to see if it is leaking and where.



THINK SOIL AND VEGETATE!

Plants such as grasses, clover (legumes) and other vegetation hold soil in place and prevent erosion. Erosion occurs when water washes soil away and forms the ditches or gullies you sometimes see along a roadside or in fields. Another type of erosion is wind erosion which you may have read about in the history of this country's dust bowl days. Groundcover with a good root system is critical for keeping sediments and contaminants from washing into our bodies of water.

Every living thing in your backyard
- birds, wildlife, aquatic life -
depends on soil!

YOUR YARD IS YOUR CALLING CARD TO PLANET EARTH.

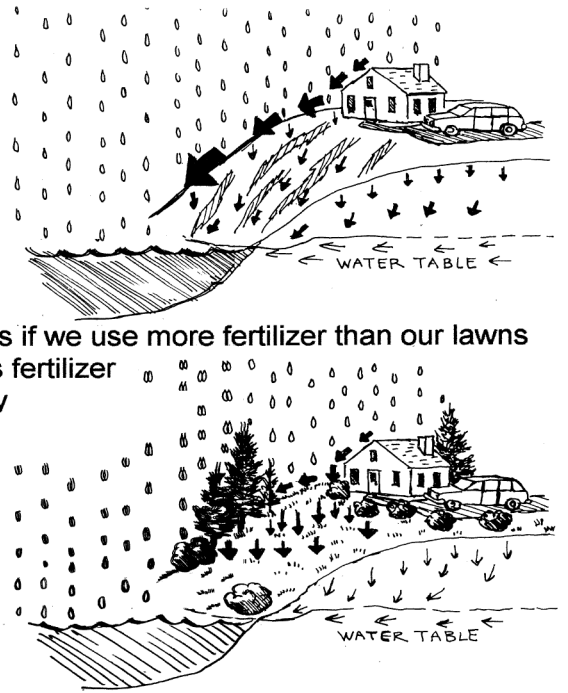
How you take care of your yard sends a message around the globe.

MOTOR OIL SHOULD BE RECYCLED...

Used motor oil must not be disposed of around the home but should be taken to a local service station or other local oil recycling station. This applies to any automotive fluids and batteries, 1 quart of motor oil can pollute 25,000 gallons of water.



Everyone enjoys a thick, green lawn for playing, picnicking, and they are nice to look at. Fertilizer and pesticides, however, cause pollution in our lakes, streams and rivers if we use more fertilizer than our lawns can handle. The excess fertilizer which is not absorbed by the lawn is washed away by rainwater to seep into groundwater or flow into lakes, streams and rivers.



NUTRIENT OVERLOAD LEADS TO TOO MANY PLANTS IN OUR LAKE

Fertilizer provides nutrients for plants the way food provides nutrients for people. Nutrients speed the natural aging process of lakes and streams by increasing the growth of algae and other plant life. Algae blooms can lead to a low oxygen level which is harmful to fish and shellfish. Too much algae also makes the lake less pleasant to swim in.

FROM GARBAGE TO GOLD - YOUR COMPOST PILE WORKS FOR YOU & THE ENVIRONMENT!



COMPOST RECIPE:

In a 3'x3' area layer carbon materials (leaves/grass/straw) with nitrogen materials (kitchen food scraps/manure/lawn clippings/fresh weeds) and topsoil until the pile is 3' high. Turn on occasion to aerate which speeds up the decomposing process. Keep the compost moist and before long you will have fluffy, good smelling, nutrient rich fertilizer.

REMEMBER: A healthy lawn reduces runoff and provides filtering capacity. A lawn with large areas of bare soil will allow rainwater to runoff quickly taking with it sediment and any pollutants, such as fertilizer, which may be present.