

# Get wise about your lawn.

## Consider your options.

**1. Test your soil.** A soil test lets you know what your lawn and garden need for nutrients so that you don't waste money. UMass Extension provides soil testing services. See:

<https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory>

**2. Leave grass clippings where they fall.** Grass clippings left on the lawn will decompose, returning valuable nutrients back into the soil. To make best use of this free, natural fertilizer: mow high (2 to 3"), do not remove more than 1/3 of the blade, and mow when grass is dry.

**3. Choose the right fertilizer.** If a soil test shows your lawn needs nutrients, ask for natural organic slow-release fertilizers. These products more effectively deliver what plants need. Also, know how much and when and where to apply.



### Did you know?

Mowing to a 2 to 3-inch grass height is optimal. Mowing lower reduces the amount of grass leaf area available for photosynthesis and in turn may reduce plant vigor. As cutting height is reduced, lawns become less tolerant of environmental stresses and more prone to invasion by weeds than lawns maintained at 2 to 3 inches.

*Source: UMass Extension*





If you need to dispose of your grass clippings...

Disposal location: Somers Road Transfer Station

Hours: Saturdays 9:00 AM – 5PM

Wednesday 9:00 AM – 5PM

This message is brought to you by your community, which is regulated under a U.S. EPA stormwater permit. Please do your part and join your friends and neighbors to help reduce polluted storm water flows. Good practices around your home and garden that keep fertilizers from washing off your property are critical.

Overall, good practices will help keep the costs associated with water pollution down and will get us to fishable and swimmable rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds in the Pioneer Valley region.