



## **Stormwater Best Management Practices for Lawns and Gardens**

As storm water flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system and eventually to our local rivers, bayous and lakes used for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. Reducing the quantity and improving the quality of storm water runoff in the community can start with individual homeowners.

By implementing the following Best Management Practices (Bmps), homeowners can significantly reduce pollutants like pesticides, fertilizers and grass clippings off the ground and out of storm water. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, bayous, rivers, wetlands. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!

### **Lawn and Gardens**

- Use fertilizers sparingly. Many plants do not need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you might think.
- Don't fertilize before a rain storm.
- Consider using organic fertilizers; they release nutrients more slowly.
- Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. Commercial compost and soil amendments may be available from your local garden store.
- Keep grass clippings and leaves from washing into the storm sewer.
- Follow recommended watering practices. Avoid excess watering and don't sprinkle water onto paved or other areas that drain into the storm sewer.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

If you have any questions concerning local environmental issues contact the City of Bossier City Environmental Affairs Division at 213-2159.