

Did You Know?

Storm drains are NOT connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plant.

The primary purpose of a storm drain is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. As rainwater flows over the ground it picks up a variety of pollutants which then flow to local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

Stormwater pollution comes from a variety of sources including dirt, debris, automotive fluids, pet waste, pesticides and other hazardous materials.

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants entering waterways.



City of Moorhead

500 Center Ave
P.O. Box 779

Moorhead, MN 56560

24 Hour Stormwater Hotline

218.299.5386

stormwater@ci.moorhead.mn.us

www.cityofmoorhead.com



Best Management Practices for Lawn & Garden Care



City of Moorhead
Stormwater Pollution Prevention

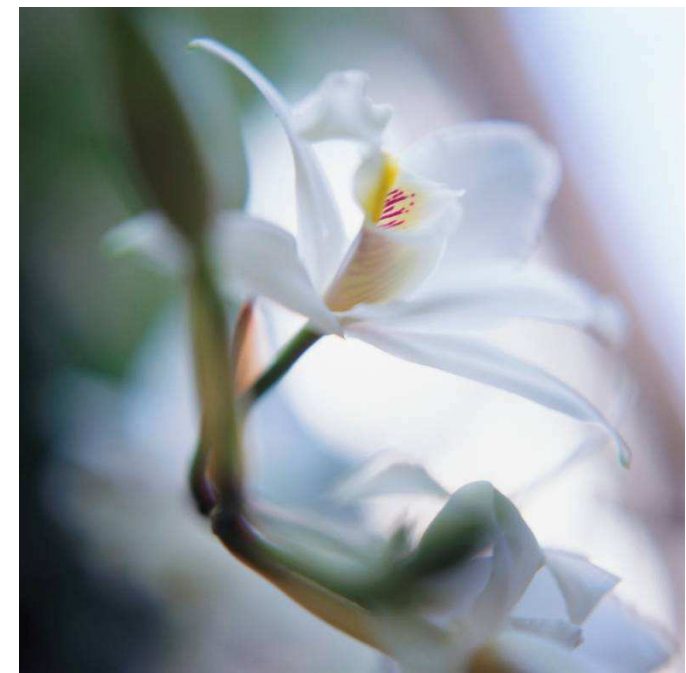
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BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

BMPs are procedures and practices that help to prevent pollutants such as dirt, chemicals, trash, metal, pet waste, automotive fluids, and other hazardous materials from entering the storm sewer system.

YOU can help keep stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River clean by applying the following tips:

- ◆ Don't blow or rake leaves and other yard waste into the street or gutter.
- ◆ Recycle yard waste or start your own compost pile.
- ◆ Don't over irrigate. Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray system and water early in the morning.
- ◆ If you have a spray head sprinkler system, consider adjusting your watering method to a cycle and soak. Instead of watering for 15 minutes straight, break up the session into 5 minute intervals allowing water to soak in before the next application.
- ◆ Keep irrigation systems well maintained and water only when needed to save money and prevent over-watering.
- ◆ Use fertilizers and pesticides that are phosphorous free.
- ◆ Have your soil tested to determine the nutrients needed to maintain a healthy lawn.
- ◆ Consider using organic fertilizers they release nutrients more slowly.
- ◆ Leave mulched grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer.
- ◆ Use pesticides only when absolutely necessary. Use the least toxic product and always read the label.
- ◆ Properly dispose of unwanted pesticides and fertilizers at the Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility. www.co.clay.mn.us



WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES?

Fertilizer isn't the problem – IF it's used carefully. If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and then flow untreated into the Red River.

Just like in your garden, fertilizers in stormwater ponds, ditches and rivers makes plants grow. In water bodies extra fertilizers can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant. Algae decomposition uses up oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic organism need to survive.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

