

Stormwater Tip:

Spring Yard Care Tips for Water Quality

When you are thinking about spring projects, consider some tips to enhance water quality and manage stormwater.

Spring has just arrived, which means thousands of Pennsylvanians will soon stroll outside to work in their yards. Individually, most yards in PA are less than ½ acre, but added together they cover nearly 1 ½ million acres and produce large amounts of stormwater. Managing this stormwater where it's created, on each individual yard, is the goal of these early season yard care tips.

Cleanup

Collect and properly dispose any stray trash winter winds may have left behind. Mulch or compost fallen leaves and garden cuttings you missed in the fall so they don't get washed away during a spring storm and end up in a stream or lake where they can lower oxygen levels.

Patch Grass

Inspect for bare spots in your lawn and landscape beds, especially if they are located on a hillside. A thick lawn produces less runoff than a thin lawn with exposed soil. Reseed grass in mid-spring, when the threat of hard frost is past but it's still too early for most weeds to grow. Add a layer of mulch to bare planting beds anytime, and consider planting them permanently with native meadow plants or groundcover before summer heat arrives.