

# 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*



## Lawn and Garden Tips to Help Curb Stormwater Pollution

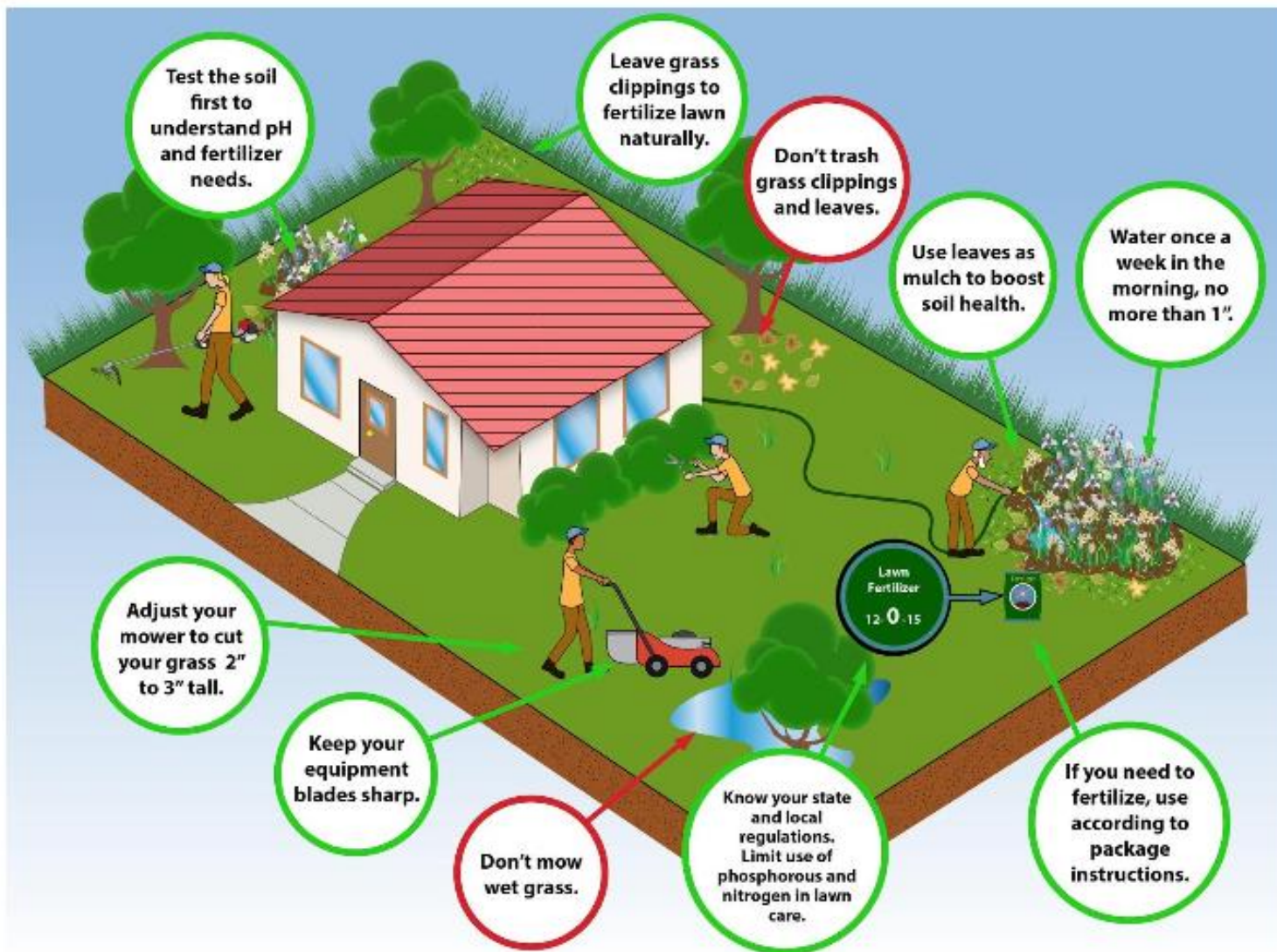


Image courtesy: Think Blue Massachusetts

Under Massachusetts law, only apply fertilizer with phosphorus if:

1. A soil test shows that phosphorus is needed; or
2. During the first growing season for a newly established lawn.

Contact the UMass Cooperative Extension Soil Nutrient Testing Laboratory to learn how to conduct a routine soil test: <https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms>

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

Disposal location: Longmeadow Recycling and Yard Waste Center on Pondsideroad (annual sticker required)

Hours: Sundays and Wednesdays 10-5, Saturdays 8-5. Hours vary seasonally please confirm with DPW.