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CUT THE WORK, GET MORE GREEN
How You, Water, and Mow Can Save You Dough

NORTHWEST OHIO, March 5, 2004 – Watering too often and mowing too short can turn a well-kept lawn into an insatiable monster and cost a lot in unnecessary lawn care products. With just a few simple *work-saving* changes, homeowners in Northwest Ohio can also save money, protect our waterways and find more time to relax.

Through a collaborative partnership, the *Give Water a Hand* program is educating residents of Northwest Ohio about easy, money-saving ways – including lawn and garden care – to conserve water and protect of our streams, rivers and lakes. “Clean water benefits plants, wildlife and all who live, work and play in this area,” says Kurt Erichsen, *Give Water a Hand* Project Manager.

Here are some simple ways you can save water and time while getting a healthier, greener lawn:

When You Mow:

- Mow high – three inches is the rule! Taller grass develops healthier, deeper roots, so it can reach deeper for moisture, especially in drought conditions. It also catches more sunlight, needs less (if any) fertilizer and “shades out” weeds before they germinate!
- Leave clippings on the lawn. They’re nature’s free fertilizer and help keep moisture in the soil. (Clippings *don’t* cause thatch; but over-watering and too much fertilizer will *encourage* thatch.)

(more)

Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among the following:

Maumee RAP (419-241-9155)
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council
of Governments (419-241-9155)
Lucas County (419-213-4500)
City of Northwood (419-693-9327)
City of Oregon (419-698-7047)

Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)
Village of Holland (419-865-7104)
Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)
Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)
Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)
Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)

Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)
Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)
Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)
Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)
Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)
Township of Washington (419-726-6621)

Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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When You Water:

- First, make sure your lawn needs it! (Over-watering invites fungus growth and washes away nutrients your lawn needs.) Here's an easy test: step on the grass. If it springs back up, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, give it a deep watering in the morning. As a rule, one inch of water a week is plenty for any lawn.
- Collect rainwater in a barrel for use during dry spells.

If You Fertilize:

- Don't "water it in." That can cause fertilizer to run off into streams and rivers and wastes your lawn care dollars!

When You Seed or Plant:

- Save yourself a lot of work by choosing grass and garden plants that grow well in your soil and our climate. Native plants and grasses are ideal. They thrive in our area, easily surviving dry periods and don't need pampering.

The *Give Water a Hand: You Can Make a Difference* campaign is a cooperative effort focused on educating residents of Northwest Ohio about storm water and other water quality issues. The average citizen does impact water quality and can make a positive difference. The Maumee RAP (Remedial Action Plan) and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) are partnering with local cities, villages, and townships to educate the region about improving water quality and managing water quantity.

For more information about the *Give Water a Hand* program, please call 419-241-9155 or visit us at www.MaumeeRAP.org.

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