



CRWC

CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SELECTING A LAWN SERVICE FOR WATER PROTECTION

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns.

Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains.

Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.

TIPS FOR HIRING A LANDSCAPE OR LAWN MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONAL

1. Before contracting for landscape (or any) work, ask for references, go look at the work, follow up and talk with the owners to hear their experiences.
2. Get the contract, guarantees, or warranties in writing.
3. Ask if they carry insurances for general liability, vehicles, workers compensation, and unemployment.
4. Do they have the appropriate local business licenses? A state Nursery Handlers License (required for anyone handling nursery stock)? A pesticide applicators license for pesticide spraying?
5. Is their equipment well maintained?
6. Be absolutely clear about the terms of payment and the date of completion.
7. Make certain the company office address and phone number are on the document/contract and know the name of the representative or designer who worked with you.



The Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA) offers an certification program for lawn care professionals interested in offering a freshwater friendly lawn care program to their customers.

Participating lawn care companies may advertise “Healthy Lawn Care Program for Water-shed Protection”.



The MGIA Healthy Lawn Care Program includes:

- An initial on-site consultation
- Soil nutrient tests offered to new customers
- No phosphorous or low-phosphorous fertilizer options
- Slow-release nitrogen fertilizer options
- Advice to the customer on proper maintenance practices such as mowing and watering
- Fertilizer quantities of two, three, or four pounds per 1000 square feet, applied over the growing season
- Weed control
 - zero pesticides
 - spot-treatment for weeds and/or
 - one-time rescue operation for weed control

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