



# Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District

---

10025 Amity Road, Brookville, Ohio 45309 · (937) 854-7645

[www.montgomeryswcd.org](http://www.montgomeryswcd.org)

*"Wise Stewardship of Our Natural Heritage"*

Kristen Lauer, Education/Information Specialist  
Article for Phase II Storm Water Agreement, Spring Lawn Care  
March 27, 2018

## **"Spring Into Lawn Care!"**

With spring comes the temptation to do all things planting and tending. Lawn companies and retailers often encourage this tendency, offering their services and wares to the winter-weary. They promise a lush green carpet that will make you the envy of your neighbors if you just sign up.

Before you sign on the dotted line or swipe the credit card, there are several things to realize about this temptation. Research from The Ohio State University has shown that late summer through late fall are better times to fertilize and result in a healthier lawn. Spring fertilization does result in quicker top-growth, but at the cost of the plant's root growth. This will not result in healthier grass, just more mowing for you. The plant is actually put at a disadvantage because of the energy it uses to grow taller instead of developing the deeper roots that would have helped it to withstand the dry days later in the summer.

In addition, your lawn may not actually need any fertilizer, or it may need only certain nutrients. Before fertilizing your lawn, have your soil tested to see what the nutrient levels are in your soil. The Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has materials available at their office, located at 10025 Amity Road, Brookville, Ohio. Once you have an envelope and instructions, sending a sample of your soil to the Southwest Ohio laboratory will gain you an accurate measure of what your lawn needs. The Montgomery SWCD does not charge for this service, and the laboratory fee is minimal. Save time and money by not buying the fertilizer your lawn did not need anyway!

By knowing the right amount and right timing to fertilize your yard, you can enjoy your beautiful lawn while knowing you will also enjoy the benefits of healthier waterways! For more information and resources, visit <http://MontgomerySWCD.org/SpringLawn.html>.

###

For More Information Contact:

Kristen Lauer  
Montgomery SWCD  
Education/Information Specialist  
10025 Amity Road  
Brookville, Ohio 45309  
(937) 854-7646 ext. 0521  
[LauerK@mcoho.org](mailto:LauerK@mcoho.org)