

## Risk Assessment Worksheet

### Lawn and Garden Management

#### Assessment Worksheet 1 - Lawn and Garden Management

The assessment worksheet below will help you identify potential environmental risks related to your lawn and garden maintenance practices. For each question, indicate your risk level in the right-hand column. Some choices may not correspond exactly to your situation. Choose the response that best fits. When finished, go to the Lawn and Garden Management Action Worksheet on page 2-11 and record your medium and high-risk practices. The goal is to lower your risks. Use the BMP recommendations provided in this section to help you decide how to best reduce pollution.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
<b>Fertilizers</b>	I test my soil for nutrients and use the recommended fertilizer rate. I do not apply fertilizer within 100 feet of any surface water.	I have not tested my soil. I am not sure how much fertilizer I need, and I apply it within 50 to 100 feet of surface water.	I have not tested my soil, and I apply fertilizer at a higher rate than the label recommendation and within 10-20 feet from the lake or its tributaries.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
<b>Pesticides</b>	I do not use chemicals to control weeds, insects, or diseases. I encourage natural defenses (lady bugs and wasps) and use non-toxic solutions (pull weeds).	I employ limited use of chemicals, and mostly spot spray.	I rely on chemical control for pests.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
<b>Storing pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals</b>	I store chemicals in waterproof containers in a secure area protected from stormwater and over 100 feet away from the lake or its tributaries.	I store chemicals in waterproof containers but not in a secured area.	I store chemicals in non-waterproof containers outdoors or within reach of stormwater.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
<b>Handling and disposing of pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals</b>	I clean up all spills immediately and dispose excess materials through a local household hazardous waste collection event or approved landfill.	I clean up spills and dispose of wastes in my garbage.	I don't clean up spills. I dispose of chemicals by burning or dumping them at an unapproved landfill or on my property.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
<b>Vegetation buffer</b>	I have planted shrubs, ground cover, and trees between the lake and the lawn and garden to reduce soil erosion and uptake excess nutrients and pesticides.	I have a natural buffer along my shoreline, but my lawn is manicured as close as possible to the lake.	I don't have any natural or planted vegetation buffer between the lake and my lawn and garden.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

**Assessment Worksheet 1 continued - Lawn and Garden Management**

When finished, turn to the Lawn and Garden Management Action Worksheet on page 2-11 and record your medium and high-risk practices.

	<b>LOW RISK</b>	<b>MEDIUM RISK</b>	<b>HIGH RISK</b>	<b>YOUR RISK</b>
<b>Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard waste</b>	My grass clippings, leaves and other yard wastes are swept off paved surfaces and onto my lawn away from water flows. I compost leaves and other wastes.	I sweep my grass clippings and leaves into the street where they may be washed down the storm drain.	I rake leaves and other yard wastes into piles near the lake and burn them on site.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
<b>Bare soil, gardens, and landscaping projects</b>	I seed areas of bare soil and top them with a layer of mulch or straw. I use sediment retention barriers (straw wattles, silt fence) on steeper slopes until I can get grass established.	I leave soil bare during construction projects, but natural features slow and treat most runoff.	My soil is left bare. No natural features or sediment retention barriers slow runoff.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
<b>Proximity to surface water</b>	>200 feet to surface water.	<200 feet to surface water.	<100 feet to surface water.	
<b>Lawn type and maintenance</b>	My turfgrass is located at least 100 feet from surface water.	My turfgrass is located 25 feet from surface water.	My turfgrass grows right up to the shoreline, and I regularly use fertilizer and chemical pest control.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
<b>Irrigation management</b>	I water in the morning or evening. I use plants that are suitable to the climate and that do not need extra water.	I don't measure my watering.	I water heavily, and water runoff is excessive. I do not time watering according to pesticide and fertilizer applications.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
<b>Composting</b>	Debris from my property is composted at least 100 feet from surface water.	I do not compost, but I do burn debris at least 100 feet from surface water.	My compost pile is located <50 feet from surface water. I put pet waste on my compost pile.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

