

WHAT YOU CAN DO . . . WITH
LANDSCAPING



The chemicals in herbicides and pesticides pollute our waterways if washed from lawns and gardens into storm drains and roadside ditches.

***Help keep our rivers, lakes,
and beaches clean***



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How can I maintain my lawn and garden while protecting our waterways?

- **Go native**
Select plants native to Michigan. Native plants are better able to tolerate Michigan's climate, require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.
- **Plant a rain garden**
Use native plants in low areas where rainwater collects in your yard to trap, absorb, and filter stormwater.
- **Diversify your plantings**
Use a wide variety of plants to help control pests and minimize the need for pesticides.
- **Place a thick layer of mulch (four inches) around trees and plants**
This helps retain water, reduce weeds, and minimizes the need for pesticides.
- **Plant a tree**
Trees can provide many benefits, such as soaking up water, that improve the environment and quality of life in your community. A typical, medium-sized tree can capture 2,380 gallons of rainwater per year.
- **Rake it or leave it**
Follow your community's leaf pick-up guidelines. Avoid raking leaves into storm drains or roadside ditches. Try mowing leaves into your lawn—they also make a good fertilizer!
- **Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly**
Limit application of these chemicals to problem areas only.
- **Capture the rain**
Use a rain barrel to water your plants. Don't forget to empty it when it's full!

SEMCOG

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