



Lawn Watering

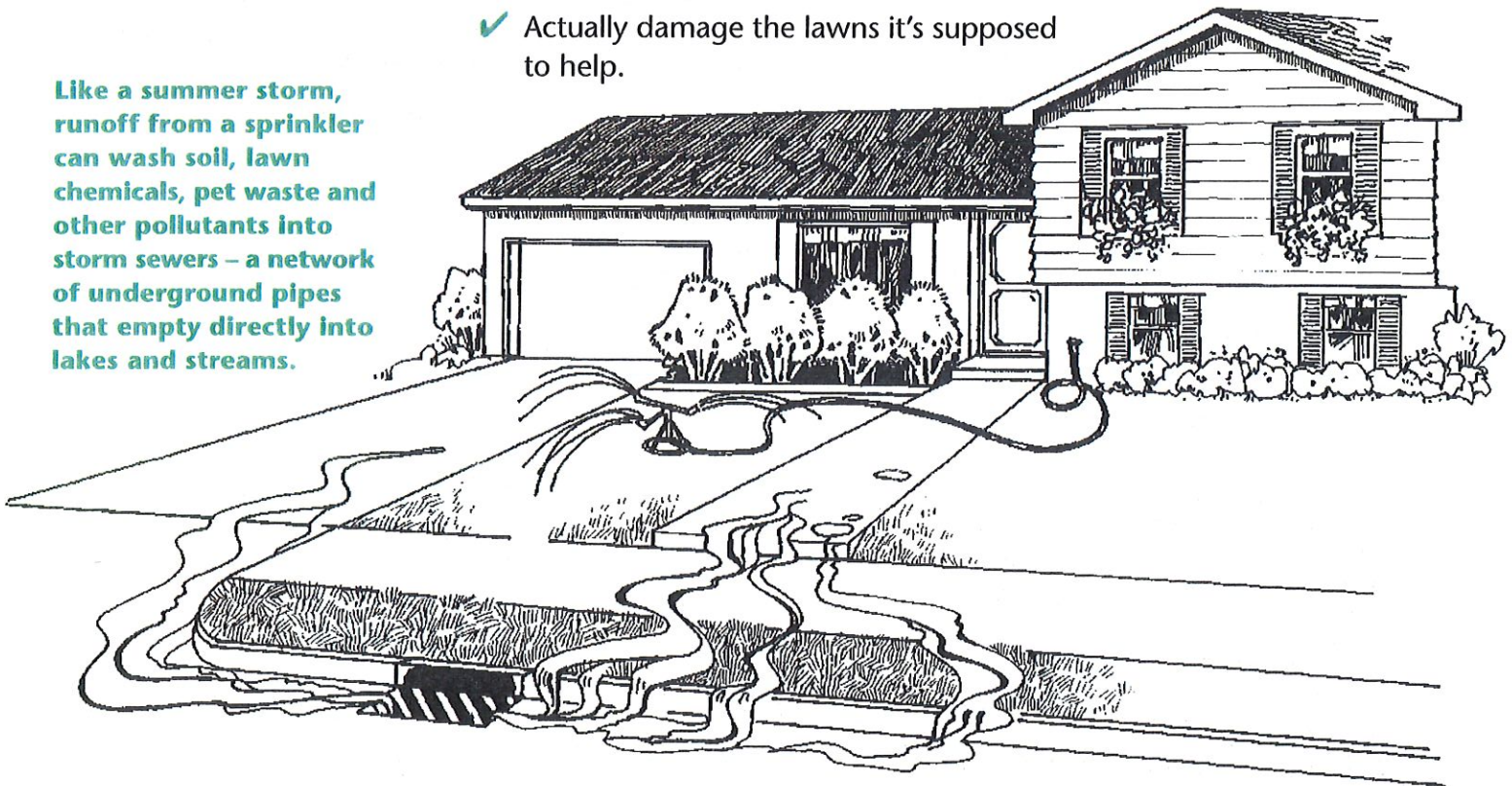
A SERIES OF WATER QUALITY FACT SHEETS FOR RESIDENTIAL AREAS

For decades, American cities and suburbs have grown and spread into the surrounding countryside. With this growth has come an unprecedented seeding and sodding of the landscape – literally millions of acres have been turned into bluegrass lawns. For many homeowners, the residential lawn is the symbol of a well-tended property.

Unfortunately, keeping the lawn emerald-green, barefoot-soft and dandelion-free requires a significant amount of attention, and can have serious impacts on lakes, streams and groundwater. Water from a sprinkler flowing down one driveway might not seem like a big problem. But careless watering on hundreds of lawns can:

- ✓ Wash pollutants into lakes and streams.
- ✓ Deplete water supplies.
- ✓ Actually damage the lawns it's supposed to help.

Like a summer storm, runoff from a sprinkler can wash soil, lawn chemicals, pet waste and other pollutants into storm sewers – a network of underground pipes that empty directly into lakes and streams.



Because lawn watering can have far-reaching effects, there is growing interest among horticulturists, environmentalists, public utility managers and homeowners in how to water correctly. This publication offers practical lawn watering tips that will save water, help keep our lakes and streams clean, and produce healthy, attractive lawns.