

# Clean water begins with you. Let's Think Blue.



When it rains, fertilizers wash off campus lawns into local waters, causing excessive amounts of nutrients, like phosphorous, to be directed into lakes and streams. This can encourage the overgrowth of algae and poses health risks for humans, pets, and ecosystems.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Quinsigamond Community College is in the **Blackstone River Watershed** which includes most of Central Massachusetts and Northern Rhode Island. Everyone plays a part in being a steward for the watershed!

Learn more about QCC Stormwater Management at [www.qcc.edu/stormwater](http://www.qcc.edu/stormwater)

**Go natural!** Consider using organic fertilizers like compost, a natural slow-release fertilizer and soil enhancing material.



**Leave it!** Don't bag your grass clippings, leave them on the lawn. Extra clippings will decompose quickly and naturally fertilize your lawn.

**Switch it!** Look for lawn fertilizers with zero phosphorous. On the bag of fertilizer, there is a row of three numbers. The middle number is phosphate and should read "0".

**Sweep it!** Anything on pavement is easily washed into storm drains. Sweep, don't hose, any clippings or excess fertilizer off your driveway and sidewalks.

**Less is best!** Most soils in Massachusetts contain all the nutrients lawns need, however if you choose to fertilize, apply sparingly.



Learn more at [www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org](http://www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org)