

Jefferson County Department of Storm Water Management



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JeffCo H₂O News

Clean Water Awareness Campaign

You might have seen some colorful unconventional posters in the Courthouse Annex or at a local event. The Clean Water Awareness posters are part of Storm Water's public education program to raise awareness about easy and inexpensive ways everyone can help reduce polluted storm water runoff. If each of us is willing to make just a few changes, our small steps will lead to big improvements in Jefferson County's water quality. You can help us spread the word! Consider emailing this newsletter to your friends and family.

Do you have a neighborhood association meeting, church event, or organization gathering? We can provide a storm water PowerPoint presentation, poster display, brochures, and cooking oil/grease recycling tools! Call us at 325-8741 to schedule a time.

What's Happening?

November 15 is America Recycles Day. What better way to start a new recycling habit than participating in Jefferson County's Cooking Oil and Grease Recycling Program! It's easy, convenient and free . . . and just in time for those deep fried Thanksgiving turkeys! Click [HERE](#) for cooking oil and grease recycling center locations.

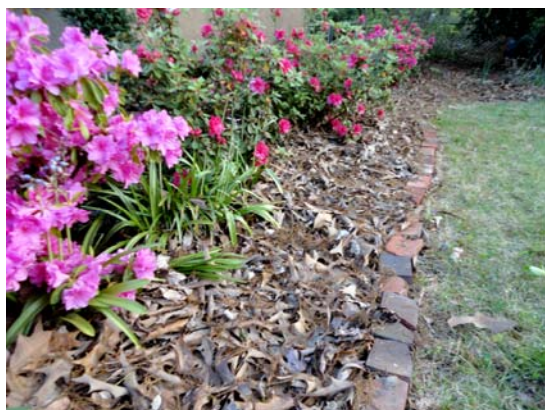
Un-Deck the Halls. Recycling live trees and other greenery after the holidays is a great way to save space in our local landfills. Trees are chipped into mulch, some of which is used for landscaping public spaces. Contact your municipality or visit the Alabama Environmental Council website to learn what options are available this season.



Mulching IS "Mulch" Better!



Step away from the rake! Running the lawnmower over fallen leaves provides free nutrients for your lawn and mulch for your garden beds!



Fall is here and there's a good chance the leaves are falling faster than you can rake or bag or blow. What should you do with all of those leaves? Bagged leaves wind up in landfills, taking up valuable space. Burning leaves create unhealthy particle-laden smoke. Leaves blown or raked into the street can wind up in the storm drain, causing flooding in streets and yards. Leaves and other yard waste that enter waterways through the storm drainage system decompose and reduce water oxygen levels, killing aquatic wildlife.

So . . . what other options are there to consider? Maybe this fall is the time to forget about bagging, burning and blowing . . . and try mulching! Mulching fallen leaves with a lawn mower reduces the leaves to small bits that can be left on your lawn or spread on flower or garden beds. The mulched leaf matter will slowly disappear as microbes and worms munch the mulch and turn it into nutrient rich soil conditioner. In the spring, your fall mulching will help make your lawn and garden areas lush and beautiful, reduce the need for fertilizers and other yard chemicals, and retain moisture by allowing rain water to s-o-a-k into the ground rather than running off.

If you do choose to feed your yard this season, make sure you know just what your soil needs before you make a purchase. And the only way to find out for sure is with a soil test. You will save time, money and help protect our water quality by using the optimum type, amount and frequency of fertilizer! Soil testing kits can be purchased at most home and garden stores. Free soil test kits are available at any Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) office. There is a \$7 charge per sample to receive test analysis information by mail from Auburn University. ACES has two Jefferson County locations: 2121 Building, Suite 1700, 2121 Rev. Abraham Woods Jr. Boulevard (205.325.5342) and Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Road (205.879.6964). Or stop by Courthouse Annex B-210 to pick up a free soil test kit and instructions.

Questions or comments? Email us at: diclementel@jccal.org or call 205.325.8741

