

HOME GARDENER WORKSHOP SERIES

Looking for ways to improve your garden's production? Curious about your garden's soil and want to keep the soil growing year round?

Join us as we discuss the organisms and microorganisms that make up healthy soil, how to identify your garden's nutrient needs, the benefits of a year-round growing crop and how to turn some of your household waste into food for your garden.



Topics Include

- Soil health
- How to take a soil sample
- Cover crops
- Composting

Thursday, September 5

- 🕒 6:00 pm
- 📍 Bish Discovery Center
404 N. Ohio St., Greenville
- 💰 **FREE** (pre-registration required)

To Register:

937.548.1715 ext. 3 or www.darqueswcd.com

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The Greenville Storm

Summer 2019

Improving Your Yard to Handle Heavy Rainfall

Developed land handles heavy rainfall differently than undeveloped areas. In undeveloped areas, tree canopies, plant roots and healthy soil absorb up to 90% of rain that falls. In developed areas this figure drops as low as 10% due to impervious surfaces such as roadways, rooftops and parking lots. In addition to increased rainfall amounts, growth and development directly impact the amount of storm water runoff by increasing erosion, scouring streambanks, declining water quality and flooding.

So, how can we help reduce the amount of runoff from increased paving and piping?

- **Plant Native Species:** Native trees and plants slow down, spread out and absorb rainfall. These trees and plants also trap sediment and pollution, reduce the impact of raindrops on the soil and store rainwater. Leaves from trees breakdown and increase the organic matter in the soil, thus increasing the soil's water holding ability.
- **Create a Buffer Strip:** Planting native species as a buffer along a stream, road, farm field, ditch or property line keeps soil and nutrients out of the water and reduces mowing. Roots also hold the soil in place and reduce bank erosion.
- **Store Rainwater:** Using rain barrels and rain gardens help hold rainfall. Rain gardens are designed to allow rainfall to seep into the ground, absorbing 30-40% more rainfall than a standard lawn. Rain gardens are also a way to plant a wildlife or pollinator habitat and reduce mowing. Rain barrels help save water, reduce storm water pollution and alleviate flooding.
- **Healthy Soil:** One of the main jobs of soil is to store and filter water. Healthy soil contains 50% pore space. You can increase your soil health by: mowing high (3.5-4 inches), using mulch in flower beds and around trees, mulching leaves in the fall, and adding compost to soil.



This newsletter is for residents of the city of Greenville dedicated to reducing storm water impacts on Greenville Creek.



Summer Lawn Care Tips

- Mow at the highest setting. This encourages a deeper root system that makes the lawn more tolerant to dry conditions. It also reduces the need for extra watering.
- Recycle grass clippings. Shorter grass clippings can be mulched back into the grass to return nutrients to the turf. Consistent mulching of clippings can reduce fertilizer applications.
- Choose fertilizers wisely. Use soil testing to determine your lawn's need for fertilizer.
- Clean up to protect runoff. Sweep fertilizer granules off sidewalks and driveways back onto the lawn. If you wash your spreader, wash it on the lawn not on a driveway to prevent runoff.

Water Quality and Pet Waste

Rain and melting snow flows across your yard, picking up pet waste as it goes. A single gram of pet waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria and can spread many diseases. Bacteria from dog waste accounts for up to 20% of the bacteria in urban waterways.

Do's:

- Be prepared to carry pet waste bags with you and take extra bags so you don't run out.
- Tie the bag and make sure it ends up in a trash can.
- Take the bag with you and dispose of it properly, never leave it on a trail.
- Pick it up at home to keep your yard healthy and protect our local streams.
- Flush dog waste down the toilet. Unlike when it flows down the storm drain, pet waste flushed down the toilet will end up in the treatment plant and the bacteria will be destroyed.



Don'ts:

- Don't leave pet waste on your lawn. Pathogens are dangerous to kids playing in the yard and can contaminate anything edible growing in your garden.
- Don't add pet waste to your compost. Compost does not generate enough heat to kill pathogens.
- Don't leave pet waste near a curb where it could get washed into the storm drain.
- Don't forget to pick up after your pet in public spaces.

Upcoming Events

Downtown Greenville Farmers' Market Downtown Greenville	Saturdays 9am-1pm
Annie Oakley Sidewalk Sales	July 25-27
First Friday: Artisan Stroll Downtown Greenville	Aug 2 6-9pm
The Great Darke County Fair	Aug 16-24
Office Closed- Labor Day	Sept 2
Home Gardener Workshop Bish Discovery Center	Sept 5 6pm
First Friday: Popcorn & Prohibition Downtown Greenville	Sept 6 6-9pm

Did you know?

In order to keep your lawn healthy, you should switch up the direction you mow your grass each week. Diagonals, horizontals, and verticals- swap one for another each week and you'll see your grass grow thicker and more lush over time.



Car Care for Cleaner Water

Help keep our waters cleaner by following car care tips found below:

- **Repair Auto Leaks:** Fluid leaks from your car are composed of highly toxic chemicals, such as fuel, antifreeze, brake fluid and oil. When these chemicals enter the storm drain system, surface and groundwater sources become contaminated. Repair auto leaks quickly or use drip pans to catch leaks if repairs are delayed.
- **Dispose of fluids properly:** After an oil change or other routine maintenance, dispose of the used fluids at the proper located NOT by dumping them into the storm drain.
- **Clean up spills:** Use kitty litter or oil absorber to clean up hazardous spills. Each year Darke County Solid Waste District holds an annual household hazardous waste collection event in the fall.



- **Use a commercial car wash :** Going to a local car wash not only saves water, but keeps pollutants out of storm drains. Commercial car washes use 60% less water for the entire process than a homeowner uses to rinse their car. Commercial car washes also collect the dirty water that contains soap, detergent and residues from cars (such as exhaust fumes, gasoline, rust, etc...) and keeps it from contaminating our streams.

- **Wash you car at home the right way :** Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergent, minimize

water usage, wash on an permeable area (such as gravel or grass), and empty wash buckets into sinks or toilets.

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