

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SELECTING A LAWN SERVICE FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION



Information provided by Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA), www.landscapenetwork.org

Polluted stormwater runoff caused from rain and melting snow carrying pollutants from the streets, sidewalks and lawns is one of the biggest threats to water quality. Lawn fertilizer and pesticides are among the pollutants found in stormwater runoff. By choosing a lawn care provider that is mindful of water quality, you are helping to protect your local waters.



Image credits: Mobomarket, <http://www.mobomarket.net/download-ios-7-rain-drops-green-grass-for-android-4294169893.html>

TIPS FOR HIRING A LANDSCAPE OR LAWN MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONAL

1. Before contracting for landscape (or any) work, ask for references, go look at the work, follow up and talk with the owners to ensure their satisfaction with the business relationship.
2. Get the contract, guarantees/warranties in writing.
3. Ask if they carry insurances for general liability, vehicles, workers compensation, and unemployment. Under certain circumstances the owner could be liable for accidents occurring on his/her property if the contractor is not insured.
4. Do they have the appropriate local business licenses? A state Nursery Handlers License (required for anyone handling nursery stock)? A pesticide applicators license for pesticide spraying?
5. Is their equipment well maintained?
6. Be absolutely clear about the terms of payment and the date of completion.
7. Make certain the company office address and phone number are on the document/contract and know the name of the representative or designer who worked with you.

The **Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA)** offers an endorsement program for lawn care professionals interested in offering an alternative lawn care program to their customers.



Participating lawn care companies typically offer *Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection* as an option for their customers.

The MGIA Healthy Lawn Care Program includes:

- An initial on-site consultation/assessment
- Soil nutrient tests offered to new customers
- No phosphorous or low-phosphorous fertilizer in accordance with state law
- Slow-release nitrogen fertilizer (40% in slow-release form)
- Advice to the customer on proper maintenance practices such as mowing and irrigation
- Fertilizer quantities of two, three, or four pounds per 1000 square feet, applied over the growing season
- Weed control
 - zero pesticides
 - spot-treatment for weeds and/or
 - one-time rescue operation for weed control

For more information, contact CRWC!

Phone: 248-601-0606
Email: contact@crwc.org
Office hours: 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri
1115 W. Avon Road Rochester Hills, MI 48309
www.crwc.org





Endorsed MGIA Lawn Care Providers

Below is a list of lawn care providers who have agreed to follow the protocol of MGIA's *Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection* and are working to protect water quality through their landscaping practices. (March 2016)

Jim Berns
Berns Landscaping Services Inc.
 23500 Blackstone Ave.
 Warren, MI 48089
 (586) 756-1145
www.bernslandscape.com

Tom Korth
Classic Turf LLC (A Division of Westside Forestry)
 22510 Hoover Rd.
 Warren, MI 48089
 (586) 757-7700
www.classic-turf.com

Chris Fox
Custom Greenery Lawn Care, Inc.
 28252 Grand River Ave.
 Farmington Hills, MI 48336
 (248) 471-1776

Dave Alexander
D.A. Alexander & Co.
 12711 Farmington Rd.
 Livonia, MI 48150-1264
 (734) 427-0030
www.daalexander.com

W. George Jackson
D & G Natures Way, Inc.
 P.O. Box 88
 South Lyon, MI 48178
 (248) 437-3459
www.dgnaturesway.com

Brett Marshall
Marshall Landscape
 24343 Gibson
 Warren, MI 48089
 (313) 885-7272
www.marshalllandscape.com

Pete Schultz
Metro Lawn Spray, Inc.
 P.O. Box 317
 New Baltimore, MI 48047
 (586) 463-1010
www.metrolawnspray.com

Marty Blaszkowski
Michigan Greens-Keeper, Inc.
 P.O. Box 202
 Clarkston, MI 48347
 (248) 393-0973
www.michiangreenskeeper.com

Gary Eichen
Mike's Tree Surgeons, Inc.
 263 Park Street
 Troy, MI 48084
 (248) 588-0202
www.mikestree.com

Ruth Pianga
Mr. Green Lawn Care
 9200 General Dr.
 Plymouth, MI 48170
 (800) 25-GRASS
www.mrgreenlawncare.com

Kirk Gruenwald
Owen Tree Service
 225 N. Lake George Rd.
 Attica, MI 48412
 (800) 724-6680
www.owentree.com

Paul Peacock
Peacock Landscaping, LLC
 4066 Harris Rd.
 Burtchville, MI 48059
 (810) 327-2684

Dave Stevens
Signature Lawn Care (A Division of Westside Forestry)
 48600 Eleven Mile Rd.
 Novi, MI 48374
 (248) 449-4949
www.westsideforestry.com

Dana Davis
Smith Tree & Landscape Service, Inc.
 6270 W. Grand River Ave.
 Lansing, MI 48906
 (517) 321-3553
www.smithtree.com

Michelle Zatorski
Soulliere Landscaping, Inc.
 23919 Little Mack
 St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
 (586) 776-2811
www.soullieregardens.com

Bill Udell
Total Lawn Care, Inc.
 424 W. Houstonia
 Royal Oak, MI 48073
 (248) 588-1694
www.totallawninc.com

Please note that this list of lawn care providers is updated regularly as new businesses apply to the program. For the most updated list of MGIA endorsed lawn care providers, please visit MGIA's website at www.landscape.org or contact MGIA at (248) 646-4992

CRWC'S 10 TIPS FOR WATERSHED FRIENDLY LAWNS AND GARDENS!

1. **Sweep it**—make sure excess fertilizer is swept off of pavement and onto the grass.
2. **Mow high. Mow sharp**—ideal height is 3in or higher; make sure to keep the blade sharp.
3. **Make your turf tough**—aerate, leave clippings, select grass varieties wisely.
4. **Water wisely**—do not over water; keep sprinklers off during rainfall; keep water on grass.
5. **Don't guess, soil test**—test soil for needed nutrients and fertilize accordingly.
6. **Buy low. Buy slow**—use products with low or no phosphorous and slow release nitrogen.
7. **Apply wisely**—do not fertilize before a heavy rain and avoid over fertilizing.
8. **Create a shoreline buffer**—if you live on a body of water, do not mow to the edge.
9. **Go native, go natural**—plant native species; use natural pest controls; compost.
10. **Make stormwater work for you**—install rain gardens & rain barrels.