Turf and Pet Waste Sample Language

VLAWMO MS4 resources for Minimum Control Measure #1

April 2024

**Turf graphic 1:**

Can you hear the mower mowin’?

Whether or not you rise up early in the morn’ to mow the lawn, mowing height can make a big difference for how much water the lawn needs throughout the season.

As turf grows and the itch to mow starts-a-itchin’, consider keeping a higher mowing height of 3-5.” This will encourage spring root growth when it counts, allowing the turf to be more resilient and need less water and other inputs later in the summer. Water savings jackpot!

A thicker turf with longer blades also does a better job at resisting weeds and holding precious soil and nutrients in place. Who wants to work on the lawn all the live long day, anyway?

Find more water-savvy lawn tips at vlawmo.org/residents.

**Turf graphic 2:**

What’s big and green and drinks up to 9 billion gallons of water per day?

You guessed it, it’s the Incredible Hul---lawn!

Another one you say? If you insist.

What common appliance can help save thousands of gallons of water but doesn’t have anything to do with water?

Think you’re sharp enough?

The answer is… a lawn mower!

Mowers can impact lawn irrigation needs for better or worse. A short grass is great for a putting green, but for a typical yard it requires more watering, fertilization, and input to maintain.

On the other hand, a mowing height of 3” or more can actually help protect soil, retain moisture, and grow deeper roots. All of these help buffer times of drought and extreme heat, and reduce the need to water or continually re-seed due to stressed or dead turf.

Check out vlawmo.org/residents for more sharp tips on water-savvy lawn care. We could even save a billion gallons of water with this and other water conservation strategies!

**Turf graphic 3:**

Grass clippings are like ice cream. Stay with me.

Grass clippings contain nutrients such as phosphorus. Nutrients are a good thing. Too much of a good thing can be a bad thing, just like ice cream. When a lake has too much ice cream, I mean, nutrients, it turns green and gets a tummy ache. Same.

The difference is, it’s much harder to bring a lake back to a healthy (clean water) state than it is a toddler who ate too much ice cream. 10 out of 10 water resource managers recommend preventing excessive algae growth from the get-go. 10 out of 10 water resource managers also recommend peppermint bon bon.

Celebrate Earth Week by kicking off this and other water-friendly yard habits that can help us protect local lakes, wetlands, and even ditches (less maintenance). More tips found at vlawmo.org/residents.

**Pet waste 1:**

Help support clean water with good pet owner habits – and other park goer’s shoes!

More info on water-friendly practices found at vlawmo.org/residents.

**Pet waste 2:**

If a dog doos in the forest and no one is around to hear…

The answer is yes.

Pet waste impacts our local habitat and ecosystems whether or not anyone’s around to see (or hear) it.

Good habits in pet pick-up help keep our parks and trails welcoming, while also reducing pollution to a nearby lake or wetland.

More water quality tips and tricks found at vlawmo.org/residents.

**Pet waste 3:**

But it’s just one paddy cake, what’s the harm?

Pet waste is different than wildlife waste. It has denser nutrients and is high in bacteria and pathogens. When pets are concentrated around people habitat, their paddy cakes create a real force of nature that nature isn’t adapted to. Our efforts to pick-up pet waste quickly helps protect local water quality and even reduces human health risks. High five!

More water quality tips and tricks found at vlawmo.org/residents.

**Pet waste 4:**

But I believe!

Well, ok. We admit it. There’s no poop fairy.

Pet waste pick-up is one of several key tricks to keep our lakes, streams, and wetlands clean this season.

Find out more at vlawmo.org/residents.