



Lake Star Notes

City of Norfolk
Department of Utilities

Fall 2019

Have you tested your soil?

The end of the summer season is when you need to think about treating your lawn for next spring. But how will you know if you need to add nutrients to the soil to have a green, plush lawn? The simple answer is to get a soil test. You can have your soil tested by [Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab](#) and they will provide a detailed analysis of your soil. Soil test kits are free and can be picked up at the local [Co-operative Extension office](#) or at the [Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center](#).



By having your soil tested before adding any nutrients and fertilizer to your yard, you are helping protect the reservoirs. Nutrients not needed by your lawn may wash off and enter the reservoir through the storm drain system. These excess nutrients can promote algae growth in the water, making it look green and unsightly. They may also lead to an objectionable taste or odor in the drinking water.

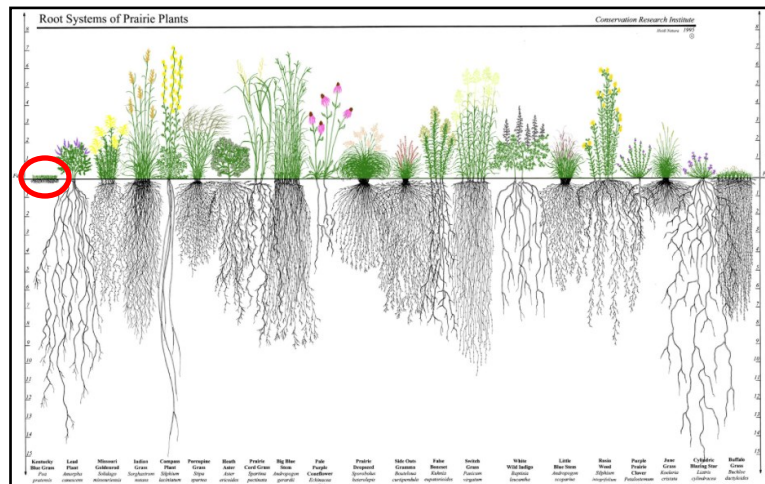
Do your part to protect the reservoir by testing your soil. For more information—<https://askhrgreen.org/gtk-gtd/fertilizing/>.

Are you tired of mowing?

Are you tired of mowing your lawn? If so, think about converting a portion of it to a rain garden or native plants. If your yard borders the reservoir the best practice to protect reservoir water quality is to leave a buffer of native vegetation instead of mowed lawn. The roots of typical turf grass are only a few inches deep. Native plants have roots that extend much deeper, possibly several feet deep. These deep roots will help reduce erosion along the shoreline and eliminate the need for watering.

A rain garden is specifically designed to capture rainwater coming off your house or yard and remove pollutants while beautifying your property.

[More Information](#) on building a rain garden.



For More Information

Become a Lake Star
www.norfolk.gov/LSH

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www.Norfolk.gov/LSH



Scan with your mobile device
for more information

Water Facts

In 2019 the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 1 in 10 people (785 million) still lack basic drinking water services, including the 144 million who drink untreated surface water.

PROTECT IT!



Pet Waste—Scoop the Poop

- When it rains, pet waste on the ground can wash into the storm drains. From the storm drains, the polluted water flows directly to our reservoirs, bay and ocean – polluting the water we use and potentially harming aquatic life with increased levels of nitrogen and bacteria.
- Excess nitrogen leads to rapid algae and weed growth in the waterway and produces cloudy, green, foul-smelling water. In turn, aquatic life suffers from depleted oxygen levels.

To Do

- Always scoop the poop. Scoop it, bag it, and trash it!
- Reuse plastic shopping bags for picking up pet waste.
- Tie a couple of plastic bags to your dog's leash, and you'll always be prepared.
- Store extra plastic bags in your car in case you're traveling with your dog and nature calls.
- Support clean and healthy waterways.

Take the [“Scoop the Poop” Pledge](#).

Credit askhrgreen.org

Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Certification

Are you looking for someone to help you with native and sustainable landscaping that will also protect nearby waterbodies? Consider speaking with a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional.

The Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) Certification is a new, voluntary credential system for professionals who design, install, and maintain sustainable landscapes.

The credential training and examination are based on a core set of standards in sustainable landscaping emphasizing stormwater retrofit best practices and conservation landscaping with native plants to benefit the environment.

You can find a directory at <https://certified.cblpro.org/> and get more information on becoming certified at <https://cblpro.org/>

Upcoming Events

Keep Norfolk Beautiful

Through education outreach, interactive programs and community service KNB is growing environmental awareness. [KeepNorfolkBeautiful](#)

Norfolk Botanical Garden

The Norfolk Botanical Garden offers a wide variety of programs and events—<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/>

Ask HRGreen

Find local activities that will help improve water quality and your neighborhood— [Ask HRGreen Happenings](#)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

For more information on regional events, visit the CBF Calendar at <http://www.cbf.org/events/calendar>.

Lynnhaven River NOW

Group committed to restoring the Lynnhaven River calendar of events—<http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/events-calendar/>.

Elizabeth River Project

We are citizens, businesses, schools and government working together to restore our home river. <https://elizabethriver.org/calendar-events>