

# Green Waste Management

Goal: Manage landscape maintenance activities in a manner that keeps pollutants from contacting stormwater or being transported offsite.



## How can you protect stormwater from landscaping-related pollution?

### General Tips

- ❖ Understand where water flows from your property and **rake, sweep, or vacuum** landscaping debris and **properly dispose** so that it doesn't enter the street, DOTA MS4, drainage system, or State waters.
- ❖ Set sprinklers to **evenly water vegetation** at a rate that can be absorbed by the soil to save water and prevent runoff; don't allow overspray onto pavements.



### Landscaping, Lawn, & Vegetation Maintenance

- ❖ **Do not** allow grass clippings or other vegetative debris to **enter the DOTA MS4, drainage system, or State waters** including drainage ditches and channels.
- ❖ Mulch-mow grasses when possible.
- ❖ Brush off mowers and tractors over grassy areas.
- ❖ Grass clippings and other vegetative debris should be disposed of or swept/blown back **onto the grassy or vegetated areas** – don't sweep/blow debris out to the sidewalk, street, or DOTA MS4, drainage system or State waters.
- ❖ Clippings and vegetative debris should be **composted** or **disposed in a rubbish bin**.
- ❖ Control soil and sediment erosion in bare spots by using seeding, sod, mats, mulching, terracing, or other practical methods.
- ❖ When designing a landscaped area, flatten slopes if possible and use materials that allow water to soak into the ground.
- ❖ Choose plants that are appropriate for the climate and soil conditions; **native and drought-resistant plants** help prevent soil erosion.

#### Why does this matter?

Organic materials in the water can cause algae to grow, which reduces oxygen in the water. This can harm fish, coral, and other marine life.

### Pesticides/Chemicals

- ❖ Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers only as needed; do not over apply.
- ❖ **Do not** apply fertilizers or pesticides **before or during rainfall or high winds**.
- ❖ See [Landscaping Materials Guide](#) for further information.