

Ripple Effect # 59 - Grass Clippings: Where Do They Belong?

When it comes to grass clippings, we think they belong any place but on our lawn.

But think again! Grass clippings are a natural fertilizer – they can provide most if not all of the nitrogen that our lawn needs.

And consider the bigger picture! If you take away the grass clippings, that means you'll need to add chemical nitrogen to your lawn. Not only does that cost money – but most people add too much. That extra nitrogen means that our lawn will require more water – sometimes during times of low supply. If we do get enough rain, the excess nitrogen can wash into storm sewers – causing damage to the river and its aquatic life.

By the way, it's good to sweep up sidewalks and driveways after we mow, because grass clippings are themselves full of nitrogen and can be washed into storm sewers from hard surfaces. Use these extra clippings to dig into your garden or flower areas. Those areas and your lawn are where grass clippings belong!

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.