

# Landscape and Open-Space Maintenance



Issue Date: August 2018

## LANDSCAPING / TURF / GROUNDS CARE

SCM-PP/GH-22



### Description

Pollutants from over watering; vegetation, turf, and ground cover maintenance; and debris and waste management can contaminate runoff. Use of control measures can help minimize the potential for introducing pollutants into the stormwater system and local waterways.

<b>NYC MS4 SPDES Permit Requirement(s)</b>	IV.A. Public Outreach/Education IV.E. Construction Site Controls IV.G. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations and Facilities IV.H. Industrial/Commercial Sources
<b>KEY SELECTION CRITERIA</b>	
<b>Targeted Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watering and irrigation</li> <li>• Fertilizer, pesticide, &amp; herbicide use</li> <li>• Debris and waste management</li> </ul>
<b>Performance Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce watering frequency and duration</li> <li>• Reduce runoff contact with soil, clippings, and landscaping debris</li> <li>• Implement good housekeeping practices</li> </ul>
<b>Most Effective Controls</b> <small>(more detail on page 2)</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage irrigation timing and amount</li> <li>• Cover stockpiled materials, clippings, debris &amp; trash</li> <li>• Match chemical applications with specific need</li> </ul>
<b>RELATED CONTROL MEASURES AND REGULATIONS</b>	
<b>Related SCMs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-14</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-21</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-24</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-25</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-26</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-27</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-38</li> </ul>
<b>Other Regulatory Requirements*</b>	Potentially applicable regulations included in the referenced SCMs.

EFFECTIVENESS FOR TARGETED POLLUTANTS / IMPAIRMENTS	
✓	Floatables
✓✓	Sediments
✓✓	Nitrogen
✓✓	Phosphorus
	Pathogens
✓	Oxygen Demand
	PCBs
	Metals
	Petroleum Products/PAHs
✓✓ = Good    ✓ = Fair    = Poor	

CONTROL STRATEGIES	
✓	Cover/Contain
✓	Clean Up
✓	Reduce/Minimize
✓	Product Substitutions
✓	Manage Runoff
✓	Capture/Treat/Dispose
✓ = Yes	

\*Note: RCNY: Rules of the City of New York; NYCRR: New York Codes, Rules and Regulations; CFR: Code of Federal Regulations

## Control Strategies/Suggested Practices

### COVER/CONTAIN

- Provide cover and containment for soil and mulch stockpiles.
- Cover and contain temporary debris and waste storage piles.
- Mulch exposed soil areas to limit transport of contaminants.
- Store chemicals in sealed containers in covered area, where feasible. Provide secondary containment.

### CLEAN UP

- Collect/properly dispose of vegetative waste/debris/grass clippings using dry sweeping methods.
- Collect trash/debris frequently & dispose of properly.
- Manage/properly dispose of grass clippings to minimize discharge to inlets, drains & waterways.
- Inspect chemical storage containers frequently for leaks or spills.
- Sweep up misapplied solid fertilizer on hard surfaces and dispose of properly.

### REDUCE/MINIMIZE

- Mow only when necessary to maintain functionality or appearance. Base mower selection on cut height.
- Perform landscape/turf maintenance during dry weather.
- Select vegetation/turf that requires less maintenance.
- Match fertilizer, herbicide, & pesticide types/qualities/application rate to specific needs.

### PRODUCT SUBSTITUTION

- Use integrated pest management practices.
- Use mulch materials that stay in place during heavy rains, such as triple shredded mulch.
- Substitute environmentally friendly chemical alternatives where possible.

### MANAGE RUNOFF

- Control the rate, amount, and timing of landscape irrigation or watering to minimize runoff.

### CAPTURE/TREAT/DISPOSE

- Divert mowing waste away from waterways, collect and dispose of properly.
- Collect pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer waste & dispose of properly.

## References

- 1) NYSDEC, *Urban/Stormwater Runoff Management Practices Catalogue for Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention in New York State*, February 2002
- 2) Western New York Stormwater Coalition, *Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Division of Environmental Compliance Services, Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: A Guidance Document of Best Management Practices and Inspection Checklist*, April 2006
- 3) NYSDEC, *Silviculture Management Practices Catalogue for Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention and Water Quality Protection in New York State*, October 1993
- 4) NYCDOT, *Right of Way Operations*, February 2016