



Water Quality Assessment and Action Plan for Landscaping/Turf Businesses

We hope you will join with the Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center to become a

Clean Water Guardian

After reviewing the reference manual, you probably have a good idea about how your business activities can affect water quality and how to use Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent pollution.

Please fill out this form to create your own action plan for protecting water quality. Send it to the address below and we will work with you to become a Clean Water Guardian.

In return for your efforts, we will seek publicity for your business through news articles, displays, and speaking engagements. We will also encourage consumers to look for the Clean Water Guardians logo at your business when they select services.

If you have questions or want help completing this form, call and ask for the Clean Water Guardians Coordinator.

Send completed forms to:
Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center
4170 Commanders Drive
Mobile, AL 36615
Phone: 251/438-5690
FAX: 251/438-5670





Water Quality Assessment and Action Plan for Landscaping Businesses

Business Information

Business Name _____

Type of business _____ Number of employees _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ Title _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Business Activities That Can Affect Water Quality

Check which of the following activities are carried out by your business.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selecting plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Storing materials such as pesticides, beauty bark, or topsoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Clearing and grading land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designing landscapes | <input type="checkbox"/> Handling materials that can spill (such as gasoline and pesticides) | <input type="checkbox"/> Using concrete or other cement-related mortars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation system design | <input type="checkbox"/> Using or maintaining vehicles and mechanical equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping near streams or other sensitive areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site drainage design | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing wastes such as leftover pesticides or used vehicle fluids | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing employees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Applying fertilizers | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposing or composting plant debris | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Managing Pests | <input type="checkbox"/> Applying pesticides | |

Directions for Completing the Assessment and Action Plan



The actions listed in the rest of this form are based on BMPs listed in Section 3 of your *Water Quality Protection for Area Business* manual. Please refer to your manual for a complete list and description of the BMPs.

BMP #1	Catch Basin Care
BMP #2	Oil/Water Separator Installation and Maintenance
BMP #4	Keeping a Clean Work Site
BMP #5	Waste and Materials Storage
BMP #6	Spill Prevention and Clean Up
BMP #7	Vehicle and Equipment Washing
BMP #10	Pesticide Use
BMP #13	Handling Fresh Concrete Mortar
BMP #15	Waste Minimization
BMP #16	Recycling
BMP #17	Waste Disposal
BMP #18	Sensitive Area Protection
BMP #19	Erosion and Sediment Control
BMP #21	Landscape Designs for Water Quality
BMP #22	Landscape Installation and Maintenance
BMP #23	Integrated Pest Management
BMP #24	Employee and Client Education

Directions (see example below):

- For each action that follows, check one of the three boxes in the ASSESSMENT column (*Not applicable, Always/usually, or Needs improvement.*)
- Then, check the corresponding box in the Action Plan column (*Plan to continue or Plan to implement*) to make the BMP part of your action plan.
- If you check *Plan to implement*, also indicate who will do it and in what time frame.
- If the action requires ongoing employee training or commitment from management, check that box too as a reminder to include it in your employee education activities.
- If you check “Need training/information” an effort will be made to provide you with the materials you need or direct you to the appropriate source.

Example

	ASSESSMENT		ACTION PLAN
2. Irrigation systems are designed to minimize the potential for runoff and over-watering.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement	 	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who <u>system designer</u> When <u>ongoing</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment

A. Landscape Design

BMP #21, #23

	ASSESSMENT	ACTION PLAN
<p>1. Paving/decking materials that allow water to soak into the ground are used instead of impermeable ones.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>2. New irrigation systems are designed to minimize the potential for runoff and over-watering. Existing systems are audited and scheduled to avoid water waste and runoff.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>3. Plants selection is based on the site's growing conditions to minimize maintenance needs.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>4. Pest-resistant plant varieties are selected.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>5. Landscape designs incorporate a mix of plant species.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment

Landscape Maintenance

BMP #10, 22, 23

	ASSESSMENT	ACTION PLAN
<p>1. Fertilizer is applied only in amounts needed according to soil tests and plant requirements.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>2. Fertilizer is applied only when chances of the fertilizer being blown or washed off-site are minimized.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>3. Integrated pest management techniques are used to control pests.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>4. Pesticides are purchased only in the amounts needed; any leftovers are contained and properly stored for later use, exchanged with another user, or properly disposed.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment

D. Vehicle, Equipment, and Drainage System Maintenance

BMP #1, 2, 4, 7

	ASSESSMENT	ACTION PLAN
<p>1. Mechanical equipment is maintained to prevent and fix any oil or other leaks.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>2. Fluids are drained from retired vehicles and equipment and properly disposed or recycled.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>3. Vehicles and equipment are washed only in a designated area that drains to the sanitary sewer or a commercial car wash facility is used.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>4. Catch basins are maintained at the business office and any work site where land is being cleared.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>5. The oil/water separator at the business office is maintained.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment

E. WASTE MANAGEMENT

BMP #15, 16, 17

1. Does your business generate more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month or at any one time? No Yes ⇒ We have a large quantity generator identification number from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

2. Hazardous waste that are not recycled are disposed through a treatment, storage, and disposal facility (see BMP #17).

ASSESSMENT

Not applicable
 Always/usually ⇒
 Needs improvement ⇒

ACTION PLAN

Need training/information
 Plan to continue
 Plan to implement
 Who _____
 When _____
 Requires ongoing education/commitment

3. Non-hazardous wastes that are not recycled are properly disposed (see BMP #17).

Not applicable
 Always/usually ⇒
 Needs improvement ⇒

Need training/information
 Plan to continue
 Plan to implement
 Who _____
 When _____
 Requires ongoing education/commitment

4. Plant wastes are never dumped in or composted by streams or other water bodies (see BMP #16).

Not applicable
 Always/usually ⇒
 Needs improvement ⇒

Plan to continue
 Plan to implement
 Who _____
 When _____
 Requires ongoing education/commitment

5. Waste is minimized by purchasing the least hazardous materials, using only what is needed and recycling whenever possible.

Not applicable
 Always/usually ⇒
 Needs improvement ⇒

Plan to continue
 Plan to implement
 Who _____
 When _____
 Requires ongoing education/commitment

F. Landscape Installation

BMP #13, 19

	ASSESSMENT	ACTION PLAN
<p>1. An effort is made to preserve as much existing vegetation as possible.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>2. Erosion control methods are used to keep sediment from eroding and entering the drainage system.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>3. Erosion-control measures are inspected regularly to make sure they are working.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>4. Fresh concrete mortar is kept out of storm drains and streams (see BMP #13).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment

Comments:

H. Education

BMP #24

	ASSESSMENT	ACTION PLAN
<p>1. Employees are trained in how to prevent water pollution and in applicable best management practices.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>2. Storm drains near the business office or construction site are stenciled "Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>3. The business suggests ways that clients can help protect water quality.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Need training/information <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
<p>4. Managers are committed to environmental protection and convey this commitment to employees.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment

Comments:

I. Other Additional actions to protect water quality:

	ASSESSMENT	ACTION PLAN
1. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment
2. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Always/usually ⇒ <input type="checkbox"/> Needs improvement ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to continue <input type="checkbox"/> Plan to implement Who _____ When _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Requires ongoing education/commitment



Thank you for completing the assessment and action program.

Please send the completed form to:

Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center
 4170 Commanders Drive
 Mobile, AL 36615
 Phone: 251/438-5690
 FAX: 251/438-5670

Reviewer _____ Date _____

Notes

