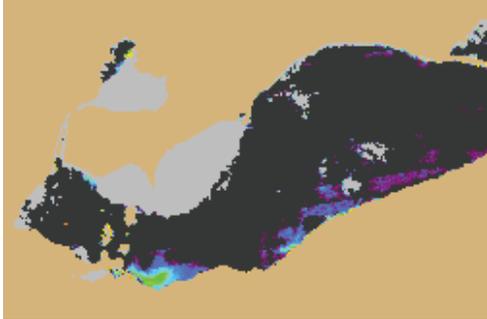


## Urban Gardens Impact on Water Quality

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July 17, 2013 Lake Erie



July 17, 2013 Maumee Bay



Lake Erie



Grand Lake St. Marys

2013 back to 2011 levels? NBC4 story this week

<http://www.nbc4i.com/story/22879349/blue-green-algae-threatens-lake-erie?clienttype=generic&smartdevicecgbyypass>

What do we know about Harmful Algal Blooms

Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force II report in final edit, released next month,

<http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/lakeerie/index.aspx>

1. First report, April 2010 is on line
2. Information from Phase II meetings is on line
3. Most of the excess phosphorus is coming from agricultural settings.
4. Average only an extra 1/2 pound per acre in the watershed to cause HAB growth in the lakes.
5. While agricultural settings are the most important, urban areas also contribute to the loading, often from storm sewer contributions off lawns and combined sewer overflows...How you manage your yard can help here.

What can you do to reduce phosphorus/nutrient loadings?

1. You don't need phosphorus in your fertilizer for established lawns, for example Scott's Turf Builder with 2% iron for established lawns has NO phosphorus  
<http://www.scotts.com/smg/goART2/InfoHowTo/npk-and-other-mysteries/16600004/1700002/21300003/7800016>,
2. Do you even need to fertilize your lawn? Most central Ohio soils have enough P & K, only need N. Options, interseed with clover ~ 30-40%, use compost tea to fertilize, consider alternative forbs and herbs instead of blue grass, mulch your grass clippings for an extra shot of nitrogen.
3. Never use "garden" fertilizer on your lawn, far too much phosphorus which runs off.
4. Limit irrigation to drip irrigation on specific landscaping plants and trees, gardens, reducing runoff of excess water.
5. Collect rainwater in a rain barrel or cistern and use instead of city water (which contains orthophosphate to coat water pipes & fertilizes your yard each time you water) on your yard and garden. <http://stormwater.franklinswcd.org/> Green Spot Rain Barrel Program  
<http://www.delawareswcd.org/>,  
<http://www.co.union.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/UC/UCDetail.aspx?page=1293s>
6. Disconnect your downspouts from the tile to the curb and drain into your yard to remove the NO<sub>x</sub> that settled on your roof from the air or was delivered by the rain from moving to the stream.
7. Collect your rain water in a rain garden to prevent nutrient runoff,  
<http://fsw.inkspeck.com/?s=rain+gardens>, <http://www.centralohioraingardens.org/> Scioto Gardens has the right plants!
8. Plant native plants which need less water and added nutrients,  
[http://www.franklinswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/FranklySpeaking\\_Jan2013.pdf](http://www.franklinswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/FranklySpeaking_Jan2013.pdf),  
<http://www.franklinswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2013-wildflower-descriptions-sale-day1.pdf>. Scioto Gardens has the right plants!
9. Pervious pavement for walks and drive allows water to recharge instead of runoff, examples such as old fashioned gravel drives and walks, block pavers, porous concrete.
10. Green Roofs, capture most of your rainfall runoff at the source.
11. Buffer your waterways with forest or prairie vegetation to reduce runoff.
12. Ultimate Goal, keep all the water that falls on your yard, on your yard, improves surface water quality, reduces flooding, reduces the need to water your plants and recharges ground water.

