

# Lake-friendly Yards & Lawns

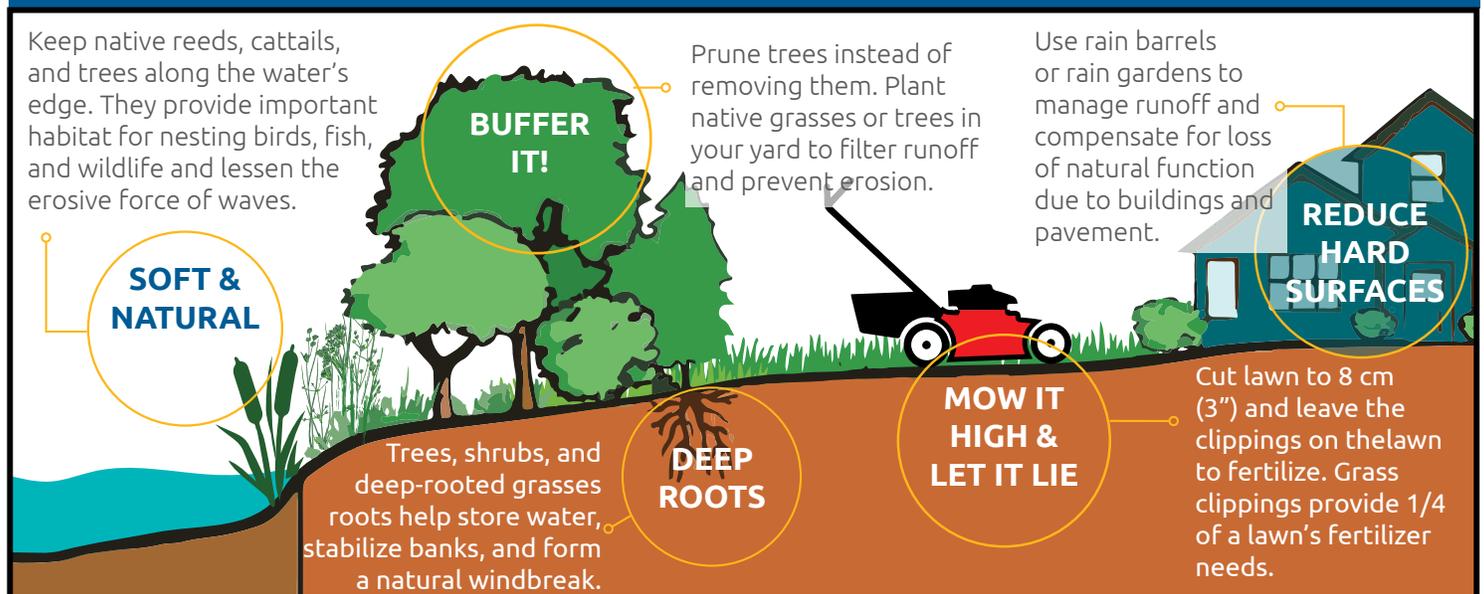
## Re-thinking how we landscape near lakes

Lawns and gardens are important features for many lakeshore residents. There are several things to consider when planning or updating your yard:

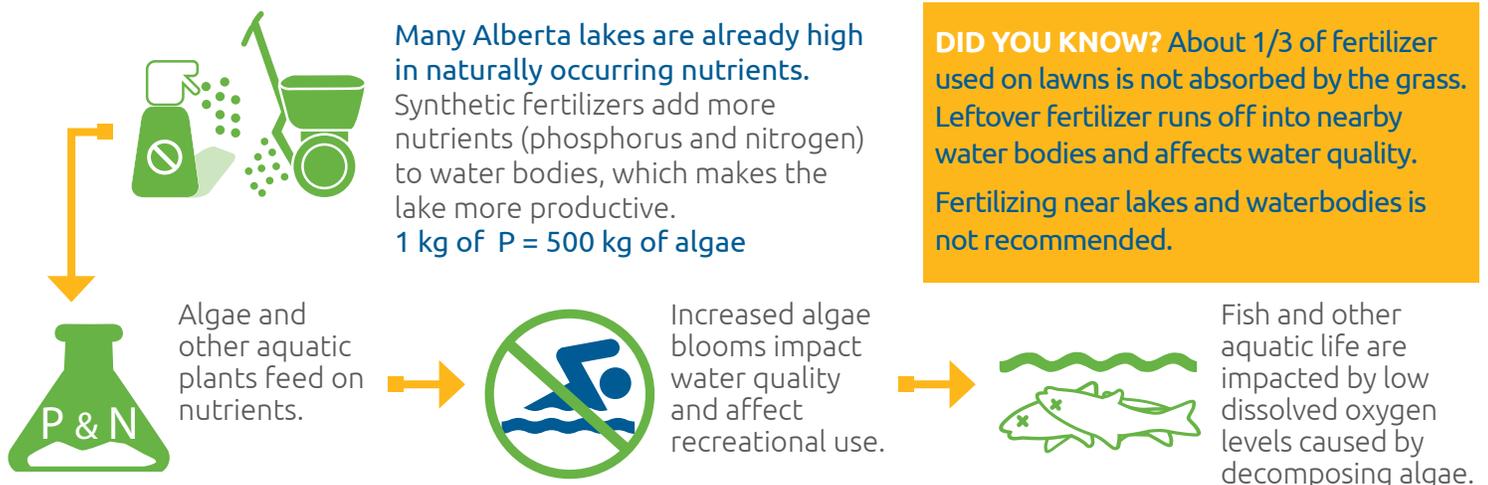
- o Native and aquatic vegetation provide important ecosystem functions
- o Landscapes with less hard surfaces and turf help absorb groundwater and filter water before it enters the lake
- o Shoreline vegetation with deep roots help to stabilize the bank and prevent erosion



## Tips for a lake-friendly yard



## Synthetic fertilizer and lake water impacts



## Garden tips & light fertilizing



### Lawns:

- o Thin layer of topsoil or well-processed compost
- o Grass clippings
- o Clover provides natural nitrogen fixation



### Sample your soil:

- o Have your soil tested to see for organic matter, pH and nutrients
- o Avoid or use herbicides & pesticides with care near lakes



### Grow native plants:

- o Adapted to the local soil and climate conditions
- o Benefit pollinators & wildlife
- o Long roots prevent erosion and mitigate flood & drought



### Go Fert Free:

- o If you choose to fertilize, follow best practices for where and when to apply
- o The less fertilizer, the better for lake health. Consider skipping the fertilizer

## Low Impact Development (LID) techniques



Low impact development (LID) practices mimic natural processes to increase infiltration and water storage. These may include:

- o Rain barrels or low maintenance rain gardens to capture and store runoff
- o Replace hard surfaces such as concrete or brick with permeable surfaces such as gravel, sand or porous asphalt/concrete, to allow water to slowly infiltrate soil
- o Plant native vegetation in deeper, uncompacted topsoil for better water retention, flood prevention, and drought resistance

Learn more at: <https://alidp.org/resources/the-lid-toolbox/tools-for-achieving-lower-impact>

## Other Tips and Resources: Find Out More

**Share your shoreline knowledge** and good habits with neighbours!

**For lakeshore owners' resources** related to water and shoreline care, go to: [www.riparianresourcesab.info/lakeshore-owners](http://www.riparianresourcesab.info/lakeshore-owners)

**To grow and encouraging native plants**, go to: [www.plwa.ca/naturalize-your-lot/planting-for-the-lake](http://www.plwa.ca/naturalize-your-lot/planting-for-the-lake)

**Pick up after you pet** as pet waste not only contributes to water quality issues but could result in water advisories.

**If you choose to fertilize**, do it when there is no rain in the forecast and on thawed and uncompacted ground.

**Well-maintained septic systems** help prevent surface or groundwater contamination. Be septic smart by doing the following:

- Have your septic tank pumped out regularly (1-3 years, depending on use and occupancy)
- Contact your municipality to learn about regulations for lakeshore property septic systems
- Take a Septic Sense workshop: <https://www.aowma.com/calendar/>

**For tips about lakeshore lawn care or to find out where you can buy native grass seed**, go to: [www.plwa.ca/naturalize-your-lot/maintaining-lake-lawns](http://www.plwa.ca/naturalize-your-lot/maintaining-lake-lawns)

**To learn about lake stewardship** in Alberta, go to: <https://alms.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/ASVALakeStwrshpGuideWholeDoc.pdf>

**To read about lakeside resident best practices or doing work on your property**, go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/respect-our-lakes.aspx> or <https://www.alberta.ca/lakeshores.aspx>

**For guidelines on preserving "your shoreline's true nature"**, go to: <http://lmlsg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Shore-Primer.pdf>

