

Yard Debris & Clippings

CDID#1 maintains the network of natural and manmade ditches, drains and sloughs throughout Longview. Keeping our drainage ways clean and flowing properly reduces the risk of flooding during heavy rain events. Please help us keep our system working by keeping grass clippings and yard debris out of the ditch.

What can I do for my yard?

By following a few simple guidelines, you can help us improve stormwater quality and keep our drainage system working properly.

- 1 Never dump grass clippings in the ditch
- 2 Compost yard clippings
- 3 Use a mulching lawn mower
- 4 Use herbicides and fertilizers sparingly
- 5 Pull weeds instead of spraying
- 6 Don't apply fertilizer before a rain
- 7 Practice organic gardening
- 8 Avoid overwatering
- 9 Never apply fertilizer near ditch or drain

It's just grass. What's the big deal?

Grass clippings and tree trimmings should not be piled or tossed in the ditch. It impacts stormwater quality and makes the ditch more difficult to maintain. Here's why:

- Kills sod cover that stabilizes the ditch bank
- Piles of clippings contribute to thatch
- Holds moisture that leads to sloughing
- Creates habitat and cover for rodents
- Invites mosquito problems
- Plugs downstream culverts
- Increases nutrient load in the ditch
- Promotes growth of aquatic weeds
- Reduces dissolved oxygen content

Who can I call with questions?

Amy Blain, District Manager

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CDID#1 Main Office location

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It's not just water, spread the word!

When it rains or we water our lawns and gardens, the excess water transports pollutants into the ditches which connect directly to the Columbia River. Toxins from our yards, gardens and streets, like fertilizers and pesticides, bacteria from animal waste, motor oil and soap are carried into the watershed. This poisons fish and our marine ecosystem.



7 Ways to Use Grass Clippings.....

- Mix with shredded paper or fibrous materials and add to compost pile
- Use as mulch in garden beds to help suppress weeds
- Add to planting containers to help retain moisture
- Mulch and leave on your lawn to help feed the grass
- Make into a liquid feed by steeping a few handfuls in a bucket of water
- Use dry clippings (only) as livestock feed to supplement animal diet
- Layer in raised beds to add nutrients and fill the bed using less compost

FUN FACT: Grass clippings make a great natural green dye color for Easter eggs and fabrics.

Combine four cups of grass clippings to four cups of water.

Bring to a boil, then turn down the heat and simmer for 60 minutes.

Allow to cool before straining the liquid into a glass jar or bowl.

Add one tablespoon of vinegar for each cup of dye liquid.

For a darker green, replace water with a strongly brewed hibiscus tea.

How do I report a problem?

Please let us know if you witness or come across any accidental spills, illicit discharges, illegal dumping, beaver dams, nutria sitings or notice any other problems in the ditch. You can call or email our main office, or submit an online service request to us at www.cdid1.org.

