



Lawn and Garden Management

Home-Owner Risk Assessment sheet

Keeping Hauser Lake Clean

WORKSHEET 2

ASSESSMENT 1 – *Lawn and Garden* – The assessment table below will help you identify potential environmental risks related to Hauser Lake and your lawn and garden maintenance practices. For each question indicate your risk level in the right-hand column. Your goal is to lower your risks. Some choices may not correspond exactly to your situation. Choose the response that best fits. When finished turn to the **Action Checklist** on page 2-10 and record your medium and high-risk practices. Use the BMP recommendations in *Section #2 Lawn and Garden Management* to help you decide how to best reduce fertilizer and pesticide/herbicide pollution.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Fertilizers:	Soil is tested for nutrients. Fertilizer rate is used at label recommendations and applied more than 100 ft from any surface water source.	Soil is not tested. Fertilizer is used at an unknown rate, 50 to 100 feet from any surface water.	Soil is not tested. Fertilizer is applied at a higher rate than label recommendation. Fertilizer is applied 10-20 feet from the lake or its tributaries.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Pesticides:	Do not use chemicals to control weeds, insects, or diseases. Encourage natural defenses (lady bugs and wasps). Use non-toxic solutions (pull weeds).	Limited use of chemicals, spot spray mostly.	Rely on chemical control for control of pests.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Storage of pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides and other chemicals:	Chemicals are stored in waterproof containers in a secure area protected from stormwater and over 100 feet away from the lake or its tributaries.	Chemicals are stored in waterproof containers but not in a secured area.	Chemicals are stored in non-waterproof containers outdoors or within reach of stormwater or in a well-house.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Handling and disposal of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and other chemicals:	Any spills are cleaned up immediately. Disposal through a local household hazardous waste collection event or approved landfill.		Spills are not cleaned up. Disposal of chemicals consists of burning, or dumping at an unapproved landfill or on the property.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

ASSESSMENT 1 CONTINUED – Lawn and Garden Care. When finished turn to the **Action Checklist** on page 2-10 and record your medium and high-risk practices.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard waste:	Grass clippings, leaves and other yard wastes are swept off paved surfaces and onto lawns away from water flow routes. Leaves and other wastes are composted.		Leaves and other yard wastes are raked into piles near the lake and burned on-site.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Bare soil, gardens, and landscaping projects:	Areas of bare soil are seeded and topped with a layer of mulch or straw. Sediment retention barriers (straw bales, silt fence) are used especially on steeper slopes until grass is established.	Soil is left bare during a construction project, but natural features slow and treat most runoff.	Soil is left bare and no natural features or sediment retention barriers are used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Proximity to surface water:	>500 feet to surface water.	300-500 feet to surface water.	10-300 feet to surface water.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Lawn type and maintenance:	Turf-grass is suited to soil type, available sunlight, and climate. Grass is pest resistant and mowed high (a mixture of bluegrass, fescue, and rye is recommended).	Turf-grass is suited to the site, and is mowed short.	Grass type is not suited to available light, soil type, or climate. Grass is mowed as short as possible and growth is encouraged right up to shoreline.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Irrigation management:	Application of water based on the requirement of plants. Watering is done in the morning or evening. Plants are suitable to climate and do not need extra water.	Watering is excessive or not measured.	Heavy application of water. There is excessive water runoff. Time of watering is not adjusted according to pesticide and fertilizer applications.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Composting:	The compost pile is well-maintained. It is aerated regularly and contains yard waste, vegetable food scraps, and other nitrogen sources (manure).	The compost pile is poorly maintained. It is not aerated or lacks the proper mix of materials. Pet wastes are added to the pile. Is located within 50-100 feet of surface waters.	The compost pile is poorly maintained. It contains excessive high-nitrogen material and is not turned regularly. The pile is less than 50 feet from the lake or a tributary.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

ASSESSMENT 2 – Location of Application in Relation to Water Resources. When finished turn to the **Action Checklist** on page 2-10 and record your medium and high-risk practices.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Location of fertilizer application in relation to surface waters:	Fertilizer is applied at the recommended rate more than 50 feet away from surface waters and surface runoff from post application watering does not drain into surface waters.		Fertilizer is applied 10 to 50 feet from the lake or its tributaries and the drainage of post application watering is not considered.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Location of well in relation to application area:	Application area is down gradient and over 25 ft from the well. No post application surface water reaches well area.	Application area is up gradient and over 25 feet from the well. Post application water drainage does not reach the wellhead.	Application is applied to the lawn area around the well. Post application surface water moves across wellhead area.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Solubility of fertilizer: (to dissolve in water)	Low solubility. 2-3lbs of a non-synthetic fertilizer is split applied (4x/ year). Or, use organic fertilizer or mulch.	Moderately-high solubility. Synthetic fertilizer used. Applied at full rate each time.	High solubility. Applied at full rate or higher 3 to 4 times a year.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Amount of fertilizer applied:	Application rate is based on soil tests. Recommended amount is measured out when applied.	No soil test. Fertilizer applied according to directions on bag.	No soil tests. Fertilizer is applied at an unknown rate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Pesticide or herbicide application location in relation to Hauser Lake and its contributing streams:	No pesticides are applied or spot application is used to control noxious weeds more than 10 feet away from surface water.	Weed and feed is used on the lawn, but more than 10 feet away from surface waters.	Pesticides are used within 10 feet of the lake. Homeowner treats aquatic weeds with herbicides.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Relative leaching ability of pesticide: (ability to move to the ground water)	Low	Medium	High	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Vegetation buffer:	Shrubs, ground cover, and trees are planted between the lake and the lawn and garden to reduce soil erosion and uptake excess nutrients and pesticides.	A natural buffer is present along the shoreline, but the lawn is manicured as close as possible to the lake.	No natural or planted vegetation buffer is present between the lake and the lawn and garden.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

ACTION CHECKLIST

Lawn and Garden Management

Write all high and medium risks below.	What can you do to reduce the risks?	Set a target date for action.
<i>Sample:</i> Fertilizers applied without regard to soil test.	Contact Extension Service for information on soil testing to determine application rate.	One week from today: