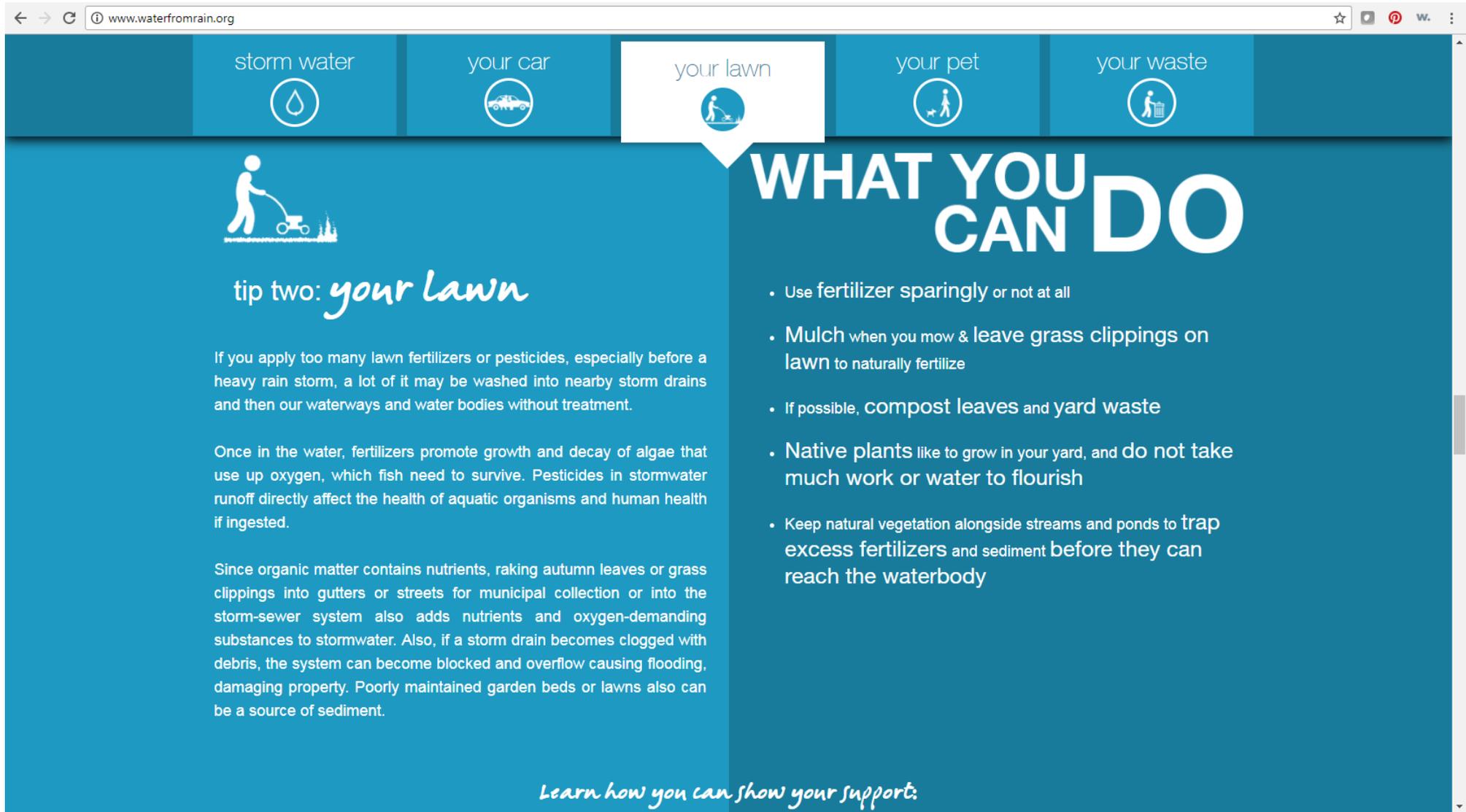


Screenshot from [www.waterfromrain.org](http://www.waterfromrain.org)

Tips for how you can protect stormwater while taking care of your lawn.



storm water

your car

your lawn

your pet

your waste



tip two: *your lawn*

If you apply too many lawn fertilizers or pesticides, especially before a heavy rain storm, a lot of it may be washed into nearby storm drains and then our waterways and water bodies without treatment.

Once in the water, fertilizers promote growth and decay of algae that use up oxygen, which fish need to survive. Pesticides in stormwater runoff directly affect the health of aquatic organisms and human health if ingested.

Since organic matter contains nutrients, raking autumn leaves or grass clippings into gutters or streets for municipal collection or into the storm-sewer system also adds nutrients and oxygen-demanding substances to stormwater. Also, if a storm drain becomes clogged with debris, the system can become blocked and overflow causing flooding, damaging property. Poorly maintained garden beds or lawns also can be a source of sediment.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Use fertilizer sparingly or not at all
- Mulch when you mow & leave grass clippings on lawn to naturally fertilize
- If possible, compost leaves and yard waste
- Native plants like to grow in your yard, and do not take much work or water to flourish
- Keep natural vegetation alongside streams and ponds to trap excess fertilizers and sediment before they can reach the waterbody

*Learn how you can show your support:*