

# A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SELECTING A LAWN SERVICE FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION



Information provided by Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA), [www.landscapenetwork.org](http://www.landscapenetwork.org)

Polluted stormwater runoff caused from rain and melting snow carrying pollutants from the streets, sidewalks and lawns is one of the biggest threats to water quality. Lawn fertilizer and pesticides are among the pollutants found in stormwater runoff. By choosing a lawn care provider that is mindful of water quality, you are helping to protect your local waters.



Image credits: Mobomarket, <http://www.mobomarket.net/download-ios-7-rain-drops-green-grass-for-android-4294169893.html>

## TIPS FOR HIRING A LANDSCAPE OR LAWN MAINTENANCE PROFESSIONAL

1. Before contracting for landscape (or any) work, ask for references, go look at the work, follow up and talk with the owners to ensure their satisfaction with the business relationship.
2. Get the contract, guarantees/warranties in writing.
3. Ask if they carry insurances for general liability, vehicles, workers compensation, and unemployment. Under certain circumstances the owner could be liable for accidents occurring on his/her property if the contractor is not insured.
4. Do they have the appropriate local business licenses? A state Nursery Handlers License (required for anyone handling nursery stock)? A pesticide applicators license for pesticide spraying?
5. Is their equipment well maintained?
6. Be absolutely clear about the terms of payment and the date of completion.
7. Make certain the company office address and phone number are on the document/contract and know the name of the representative or designer who worked with you.

The **Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA)** offers an endorsement program for lawn care professionals interested in offering an alternative lawn care program to their customers.



Participating lawn care companies typically offer *Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection* as an option for their customers.

### The MGIA Healthy Lawn Care Program includes:

- An initial on-site consultation/assessment
- Soil nutrient tests offered to new customers
- No phosphorous or low-phosphorous fertilizer in accordance with state law
- Slow-release nitrogen fertilizer (40% in slow-release form)
- Advice to the customer on proper maintenance practices such as mowing and irrigation
- Fertilizer quantities of two, three, or four pounds per 1000 square feet, applied over the growing season
- Weed control
  - zero pesticides
  - spot-treatment for weeds and/or
  - one-time rescue operation for weed control

### For more information, contact CRWC!

Phone: 248-601-0606  
Email: [contact@crwc.org](mailto:contact@crwc.org)  
Office hours: 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri  
1115 W. Avon Road Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
[www.crwc.org](http://www.crwc.org)





## Endorsed MGIA Lawn Care Providers

Below is a list of lawn care providers who have agreed to follow the protocol of MGIA's *Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection* and are working to protect water quality through their landscaping practices. (March 2016)

Jim Berns  
**Berns Landscaping Services Inc.**  
23500 Blackstone Ave.  
Warren, MI 48089  
(586) 756-1145  
[www.bernslandscape.com](http://www.bernslandscape.com)

Tom Korth  
**Classic Turf LLC (A Division of Westside Forestry)**  
22510 Hoover Rd.  
Warren, MI 48089  
(586) 757-7700  
[www.classic-turf.com](http://www.classic-turf.com)

Chris Fox  
**Custom Greenery Lawn Care, Inc.**  
28252 Grand River Ave.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
(248) 471-1776

Dave Alexander  
**D.A. Alexander & Co.**  
12711 Farmington Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150-1264  
(734) 427-0030  
[www.daalexander.com](http://www.daalexander.com)

W. George Jackson  
**D & G Natures Way, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 88  
South Lyon, MI 48178  
(248) 437-3459  
[www.dgnaturesway.com](http://www.dgnaturesway.com)

Brett Marshall  
**Marshall Landscape**  
24343 Gibson  
Warren, MI 48089  
(313) 885-7272  
[www.marshalllandscape.com](http://www.marshalllandscape.com)

Pete Schultz  
**Metro Lawn Spray, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 317  
New Baltimore, MI 48047  
(586) 463-1010  
[www.metrolawnspray.com](http://www.metrolawnspray.com)

Marty Blaszkowski  
**Michigan Greens-Keeper, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 202  
Clarkston, MI 48347  
(248) 393-0973  
[www.michiangreenskeeper.com](http://www.michiangreenskeeper.com)

Gary Eichen  
**Mike's Tree Surgeons, Inc.**  
263 Park Street  
Troy, MI 48084  
(248) 588-0202  
[www.mikestree.com](http://www.mikestree.com)

Ruth Pianga  
**Mr. Green Lawn Care**  
9200 General Dr.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(800) 25-GRASS  
[www.mrgreenlawncare.com](http://www.mrgreenlawncare.com)

Kirk Gruenwald  
**Owen Tree Service**  
225 N. Lake George Rd.  
Attica, MI 48412  
(800) 724-6680  
[www.owentree.com](http://www.owentree.com)

Paul Peacock  
**Peacock Landscaping, LLC**  
4066 Harris Rd.  
Burtchville, MI 48059  
(810) 327-2684

Dave Stevens  
**Signature Lawn Care (A Division of Westside Forestry)**  
48600 Eleven Mile Rd.  
Novi, MI 48374  
(248) 449-4949  
[www.westsideforestry.com](http://www.westsideforestry.com)

Dana Davis  
**Smith Tree & Landscape Service, Inc.**  
6270 W. Grand River Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48906  
(517) 321-3553  
[www.smithtree.com](http://www.smithtree.com)

Michelle Zatorski  
**Soulliere Landscaping, Inc.**  
23919 Little Mack  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080  
(586) 776-2811  
[www.soullieregardens.com](http://www.soullieregardens.com)

Bill Udell  
**Total Lawn Care, Inc.**  
424 W. Houstonia  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
(248) 588-1694  
[www.totallawninc.com](http://www.totallawninc.com)

Please note that this list of lawn care providers is updated regularly as new businesses apply to the program. For the most updated list of MGIA endorsed lawn care providers, please visit MGIA's website at [www.landscape.org](http://www.landscape.org) or contact MGIA at (248) 646-4992

## CRWC'S 10 TIPS FOR WATERSHED FRIENDLY LAWNS AND GARDENS!

- 1. Sweep it**—make sure excess fertilizer is swept off of pavement and onto the grass.
- 2. Mow high. Mow sharp**—ideal height is 3in or higher; make sure to keep the blade sharp.
- 3. Make your turf tough**—aerate, leave clippings, select grass varieties wisely.
- 4. Water wisely**—do not over water; keep sprinklers off during rainfall; keep water on grass.
- 5. Don't guess, soil test**—test soil for needed nutrients and fertilize accordingly.
- 6. Buy low. Buy slow**—use products with low or no phosphorous and slow release nitrogen.
- 7. Apply wisely**—do not fertilize before a heavy rain and avoid over fertilizing.
- 8. Create a shoreline buffer**—if you live on a body of water, do not mow to the edge.
- 9. Go native, go natural**—plant native species; use natural pest controls; compost.
- 10. Make stormwater work for you**—install rain gardens & rain barrels.