



HOME*A*SYST

Home Assessment System

Michigan residents use their lawns for a wide range of activities. Some desire a formal, manicured appearance; others are interested in using their lawn as a soccer field. It is important to identify your objectives for your lawn and the level of maintenance you wish to invest in it.

Lawn*A*Syst will identify the proper lawn care techniques that will help you achieve your objectives and protect both groundwater and surface waters. Michigan residents depend on these water resources for their drinking water.

Properly maintained lawns contribute to Michigan's healthy environment.

Your lawn has the ability to:

- ✓ Filter contaminants from rainwater and the atmosphere.
- ✓ Absorb nutrients and prevent losses to the groundwater.
- ✓ Reduce runoff and erosion.
- ✓ Absorb heat, light and noise.
- ✓ Provide an ideal surface for recreational activities.



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The Home *A*Syst Assessment Guide (Extension Bulletin WQ-51) is available from county MSU Extension offices.

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Lawn*A*Syst: An environmental risk assessment guide for lawn care practices

Assessment Tables

The following tables are designed to examine and rank your lawn maintenance practices for their risk to water resources. For each practice, indicate your score in the fourth column. Some choices may not correspond exactly to your situation — choose the response that best fits your lawn maintenance activities.

Responding to Risks

Your goal is to lower your potential risks to water quality. Turn to the action checklist on page 6 to record the high- and medium-risk practices you identified. Use the information in the tables and the MSU Extension fact sheet series Turf Maintenance Tips To Preserve Water Quality to help plan actions to reduce your risks to water quality.

