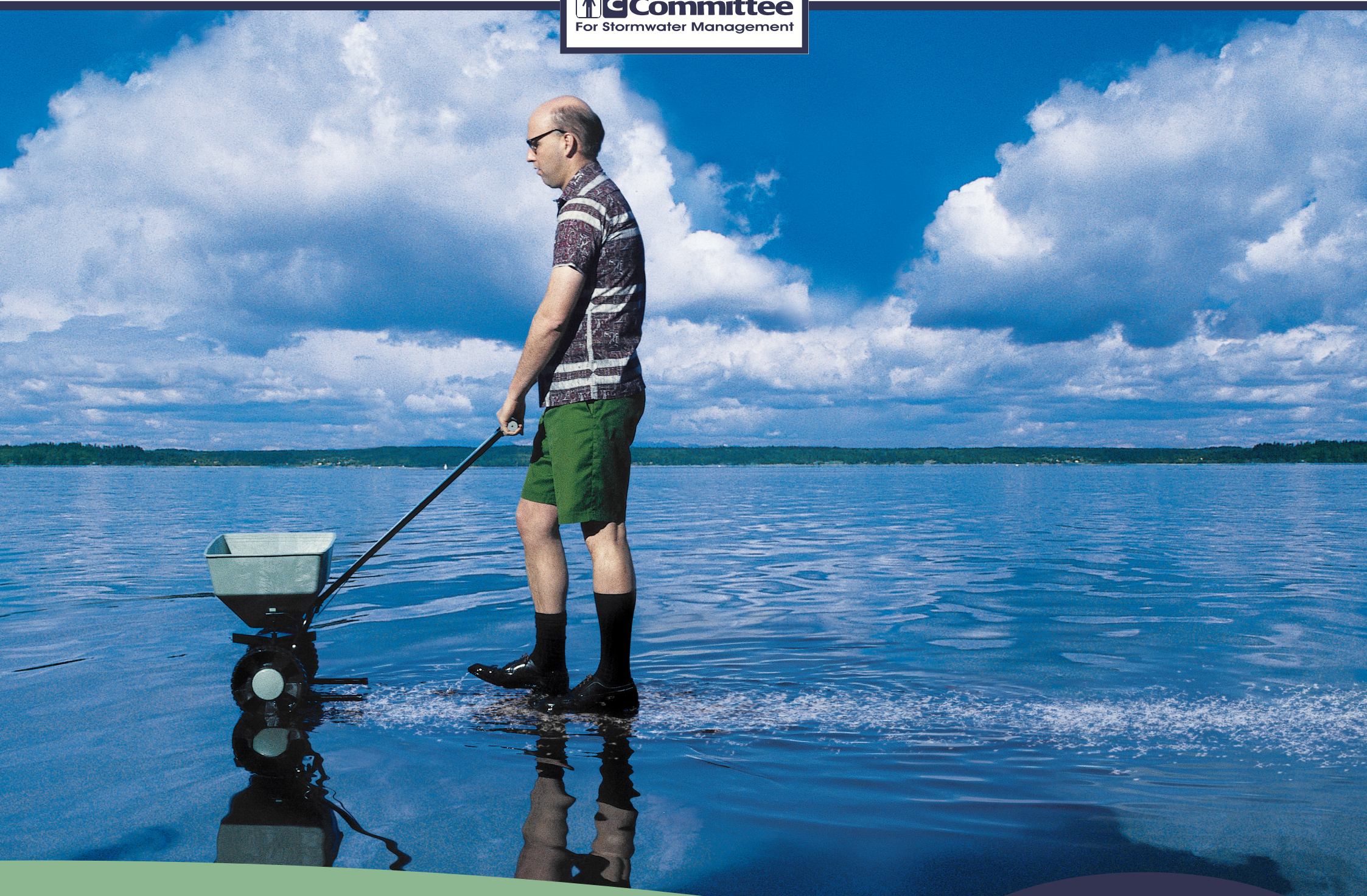
WHEN YOU'RE FERTILIZING THE LAWN, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST FERTILIZING THE LAWN.

Greater Lansing Regional Committee For Stormwater Management



What's the problem with fertilizer?

Fertilizer isn't a problem if it's used carefully. If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and then flow untreated into our rivers, streams, wetlands, and lakes. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in lakes and streams makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes canoeing, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

Clean water is important to all of us. Together we can make it happen

You fertilize the lawn. Then it rains. The rain washes the fertilizer along the curb, into the storm drain, and directly into our lakes, rivers and streams. This causes algae to grow, which uses up oxygen that fish need to survive.

So how can you prevent this? Start with the basics.

If you fertilize, please follow the directions and use sparingly!

Your actions can help keep our water clean. Find out how.
www.mywatersheds.org

Image Courtesy of Puget Sound Action Team, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma