

## Maintenance

- Determine maintenance activities - such as removal and replacement of dead and diseased vegetation, water and mulching frequency, repair and replacement of staking and wires, and who is the responsible entity in order to ensure vegetation is maintained on the bank to prevent erosion.
- If you do fertilize or mow, prevent grass clippings and excess fertilizer from entering pond. Do not apply fertilizers and pesticides before or during rain, runoff can carry them into the pond and can lead to excessive algae growth.
- Do not apply fertilizer within 15' from the edge of the pond.



Stormwater pond with algae growth due to improper use of fertilizer and grass clippings.

## Contact Information

**For more information refer to the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual.**

Available for free download from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Website:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html)



Prepared by the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County Construction Task Group:  
[www.thestormwatercoalition.org](http://www.thestormwatercoalition.org)

### For more information:

The NYS DEC Stormwater Information Website:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8694.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8694.html)

Or



Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District at:  
[www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org)  
(585) 473-2120 x3

# Proper Landscaping and Maintenance Near Stormwater Ponds



## What is a Stormwater Pond?

- In 2003, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) implemented new regulations that require construction projects that disturb 1 acre of soil or greater to file for a permit with the NYS DEC and implement practices such as detention ponds to treat water quality and quantity.

### The NYS DEC Permit Requires:

1. Development of a plan to control runoff and pollutants from a site during and after construction activities.
  - **Post-construction stormwater controls such as stormwater ponds are designed and engineered to capture and treat stormwater runoff from nearby roofs, parking lots and roads in accordance with these regulations. These ponds are designed to NYS standards and specifications.**
2. Maintenance of construction and post-construction stormwater controls.
  - The grade and shape of stormwater ponds are specifically designed to aid in their functioning. **Any changes to existing drainage patterns can alter the functioning of these ponds and lead to many problems in the future.**



## Tips to Remember When Establishing

**Here are some important things that a landscaper must consider when establishing and maintaining vegetation surrounding or adjacent to one of these ponds.**

- Plan ahead. Specify a step-by-step procedure for plant installation through site clean-up, including planting schedule and installation specifications. Order plants well in advance in case of long lead times. Existing and proposed utilities should be identified and considered.
- Reduce the amount of time that the banks of a pond have bare soil exposed.
- Use native plants when possible. Avoid invasive plants that spread quickly and reduce plant diversity.



Pond dominated by purple loosestrife, a non-native invasive species.

- Avoid planting woody vegetation with extensive root systems near inlets and outlets of ponds that can impair functioning of these structures.

## Vegetation on Stormwater Ponds

- **Always notify your municipality prior to making any modification to existing-drainage patterns.**

### Plant Selection Considerations:

- Select plants that work with existing conditions on site such as grade, soil characteristics, wind exposure, insect, disease, drought resistance, and light exposure.

(For a list of suggested plant species see Table H.5 in the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual, which can be found at: [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html))

- When possible, select vegetation that is low maintenance and does not require pruning, fertilizer, or mowing, such as native plants.

### Mulch Recommendations:

- Use standard landscape style, single or double shredded hardwood mulch or chips. Mulch should be well-aged, free of other materials, such as weeds, soil, roots, etc. Mulch should be applied to a minimum depth of 3 inches; **Grass clippings should not be used as mulch along the edge of the pond.** They are high in nitrogen and contribute excess nutrients to ponds, which can cause algal growth.