What is Stormwater Runoff?

Today on Gardening in a Minute: all about stormwater runoff and why you should care.

In Florida, our landscapes are dotted with rivers, lakes, and streams. These surface water bodies can be harmed by excess water from landscapes.

Water leaving landscapes often runs over impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and roads, flows down storm drains, and eventually finds its way to our water supply. This unabsorbed runoff often contains nutrients that fuel algal blooms in water bodies. These blooms smother natural vegetation and deplete oxygen, killing fish.

Properly maintained lawns and landscapes can help filter water as it runs off, protecting Florida’s waterways. You can be part of the solution: reduce stormwater runoff from your landscape by keeping rainwater on your property with a rain barrel or rain garden. Always use pesticides and fertilizers wisely, as well.

For more information about stormwater runoff, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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