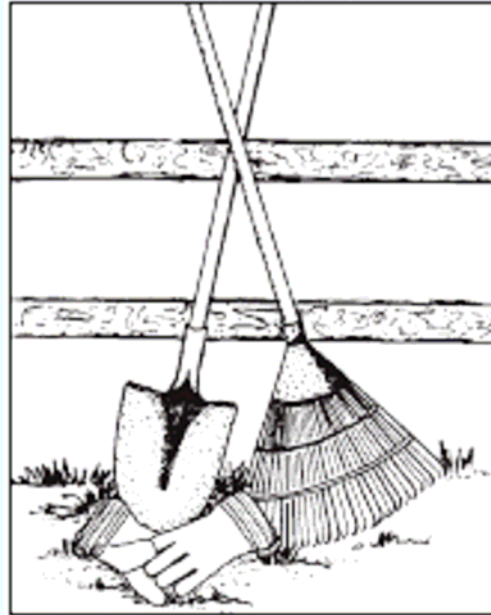


## ***Protect Water Quality in Your Own Yard in Every Season!***

### ***Fall***



- Gardens need bedcovers. When cleaning out vegetable and flower gardens, don't leave the soil bare for the winter. Use chopped leaves as mulch or plant a "green mulch" to add nutrients and organic matter to the soil.
- Plant! Early autumn is the best time to transplant shrubs and other perennials and to reseed lawns. Choose grass seed mixes that match your site. Consider adding a little clover seed for a free source of nitrogen fixation. Early autumn is the best time for a single dose of fertilizer for good grass root growth and a healthy lawn next spring. Slow-release or organic fertilizers stay where plants can use them and out of the local waters and wells. Keep watering all new plantings until the ground is frozen to give the roots plenty of opportunity to grow.
- Save the leaves. Leaves have lots of landscaping uses. Make a compost pile, chop them and mulch the landscaping and garden beds, or create new beds under the trees from which they fell. If your property is just too small and the town has community composting, use it, but go back for your leaf mulch next spring.

**To learn more or report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the Village of Beecher at 708-946-2261.**

(Source: Clean Water Fact Sheet, produced by NEMO and Sea Grant Connecticut)