



2008 USDA-CSREES National Water Conference  
Sparks, NV

### **Changing Homeowners' Lawn Care Behavior**

Julia Peterson, Brian Eisenhauer, Karen Filchak, Marion Gold, Karl Guillard, Jurij Homziak, and Laura Wilson

#### **Abstract Text:**

Like many regions of the US, New England is experiencing high rates of conversion of formerly agricultural and forested lands to residential development. Land stewardship and land uses are changing and increasing the potential for nonpoint sources of pollution, including excess nutrients, to enter local surface and ground waters. This poster represents a CSREES Integrated Water Quality Program project that combines social science and environmental science to investigate “who” has the most influence over residential lawn care practices of do-it-yourselfers and “what” should be done to minimize excess nutrient runoff from lawns. The project then builds educational outreach based on those investigations. The project time period is September 2006 through August 2009. This poster describes the project overall and the first year’s progress.

#### **Impact Statement:**

The project is expected to assist outreach professionals in their understanding of the primary drivers of lawn care practices and the options available to homeowners to reduce nutrient losses off their property into local water bodies.