Floodwaters can cause extensive damage or even kill lawns and gardens. With a little work, lawns and gardens can be rejuvenated or replaced.

General Care Tips

- Remove all debris and silt deposits more than 3 inches deep.
- Cover exposed plant roots with soil to original depth.
- Aerate if the soil is compacted because of floodwaters.
- Have a certified professional inspect and flush your sprinkler system.
- Keep family and pets away from areas that may have soil contaminated with raw sewage or other harmful substances.
- Practice good hygiene (wash hands, change clothing and keep dirty shoes outside) if exposed to flooded soil. No produce should be used in areas contaminated with feedlot or septic overflow for at least 90 days.

Lawn Care

If grass was underwater for less than a week and covered with 1 inch or less of silt

- **Raking** – Gently rake the ground to break the soil crust.
- **Fertilize** – Apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to encourage turf recovery.
- **Overseeding** – You may need to overseed in the spring or fall.

If grass was underwater for more than a week and/or covered with more than 1 inch of silt

- **Silt** – Remove all silt accumulations more than 3 inches deep.
- **Erosion problems** – Add topsoil with the aim of the entire landscape having at least 4 inches of topsoil as its foundation.
- **Weeds** – Apply a vegetation killer, such as glyphosate before establishing new turf. Follow all label instructions.
- **Tillage** – Prepare a smooth, uniform seedbed by incorporating the remaining silt into the topsoil.
- **Seeding** – The best time to seed is from mid-August to mid-September; otherwise wait until the ground dries in the spring.
- **Grasses** – Reseed with hardy grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, red/fine fescue, perennial ryegrass, crested wheatgrass or blue grama.
- **Sodding** – Apply sod until mid-October. Typically, sod is 100 percent Kentucky bluegrass and should be used only in sunny areas.

Gardens

- **Soil contaminants** – Rain, sunshine and freezing will reduce contamination through time.
- **Harvesting** – When in doubt, throw it out. Do not consume vegetables that came into direct contact with floodwater. Wash all harvested vegetables using potable water to remove possible contaminants.