

It's The Law in NJ

The NJ Fertilizer Law A2290, was conceived to protect all NJ surface and ground waters from impairment by minimizing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus entering waterways which may be derived from lawn fertilizer. Even though excess nitrogen is a threat to coastal water quality and excess phosphorus is a threat to fresh water quality, both nutrients are also important for plant growth and health.

- Statewide fertilizer standards
- Prohibits the time fertilizer can be used and "Blackout Dates"
 - ⇒Consumers: 11/15 to 3/1
 - ⇒Professionals: 12/1 to 3/1
- Restricts amount of water-soluble nitrogen used per application to 0.7lb per 1000 ft²
- Restricts amount of total nitrogen used per application/per year
 - Consumers: 0.9/3.2 lb/1000 ft²
 - Professionals: 11/4.25 lb/1000 ft²
- Prohibits fertilizer application during or just before heavy rainfall, onto an impervious surface, or onto frozen ground
- Restricts nitrogen fertilizer content to $\geq 20\%$ in slow-release form
- Fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus can not be applied to turf within 25 feet of any water body *(Except when a drop spreader, rotary spreader with a deflector, or targeted spray liquid is used, then the buffer may be reduced to 10 feet)*

For more information and to contact us, please visit our website at

www.gwlc.org



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Fertilizers And The Lake



Please...

Use Fertilizers Responsibly



Greenwood Lake Commission

Education Series

www.gwlc.org

What's The Big Deal

According to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, "No doubt a green and healthy lawn gives many of us a great sense of pride and accomplishment, but many people tend to overuse fertilizers or apply them sloppily, leading to degraded water quality from too many nutrients being carried with stormwater runoff into our streams, lakes, rivers and bays."

Main Ingredients

15-0-15

N **P** **K**

- **Nitrogen (N)**- Used by terrestrial plants to promote leaf growth and produce greener, more lush leaves
- **Phosphorus (P)**- Used by land plants to produce fruit and promote a stronger root system
- **Potassium (K)**- Used by terrestrial plants for flower color and size while also being important for the strength of the plant

Do Your Part

USE LAKE FRIENDLY FERTILIZER

- Fertilizer with little/no phosphorus
- Apply only products with "zero" as middle number
- Using a zero phosphorus content product prevents runoff of unused phosphorous from flowing into the lake

APPLICATION

- Apply fertilizer at the spreader setting shown on the bag to avoid over/under use of product
- Do not apply fertilizer products if a heavy rain is predicted or when ground is saturated
- Use a drop spreader or a rotary spreader with a side guard to keep fertilizer on the lawn and off driveways, roadways and walkways.
- Sweep up excess fertilizer from hardscape/paved surfaces

SOIL TESTING

- Soil testing identifies nutrient needs
- Soil PH testing kits can be found at local hardware/gardening stores
- Optimal soil PH is between 6-7, increasing nutrient uptake while reducing the need for fertilizers

Moving Forward

ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES

- Keep lawns to a minimum
- Cut grass longer for more absorption
- Plant a 25 foot buffer of native plants/shrubs at lake's edge to slow and absorb water run off, keeping pollutants out of the lake
- Fertilize in the spring and fall when weather conditions promote nutrient absorption

Future Regulations

- Requirement that all professionals be certified.
- Nitrogen content levels for all fertilizers
- The use of phosphorus banned without a soil test
- Banned use of fertilizer products that do not meet the new content standards



*Very little phosphorus is required by a lawn, as it relies mostly on nitrogen.
In a lake environment, weeds and algae rely on mostly phosphorus and require very little nitrogen.*