

What you should know about Lawn Fertilizer

Stormwater runoff from yards where fertilizers have been misapplied, either by using too much or spreading it onto sidewalks or driveways, will often contribute to unsightly algae blooms in neighborhood stormwater ponds. This frequently results in obnoxious odors when the algae dies off and decays. Eventually, this nutrient polluted water will make its way or within the Bay.

Homeowners can take action to reduce these impacts and help protect water quality by ensuring that **ONLY ZERO PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZERS** are applied to their lawns, as well as **SWEEPING UP** fertilizer that ends up on impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways. Most soils in Monroe County already have sufficient phosphorus to support a healthy lawn. If your lawn needs to be fertilized, applying only once a year during the fall will also greatly reduce the amount of nutrients reaching our local waterways.

Recognizing that the over use of fertilizers can have serious impacts on water quality, New York State has recently passed a law which prohibits the application of phosphorus containing fertilizers for established lawns. This law also requires that fertilizer put on impervious surfaces be picked/swept up immediately.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The storm drains located on your street or in your back yard often discharge to stormwater management ponds, but some empty directly into local creeks without any treatment.
- The label on a fertilizer bag shows three numbers which indicate the percentage by weight of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, in that order. So make sure you choose a fertilizer that has 0 phosphorus, for example 26-0-3

For more information about local stormwater pollution and what you can do to reduce it, please visit www.H2OHero.org or www.perinton.org/Departments/Dewer/stormdrain/.