

DON'T "P" ON YOUR LAWN!



Phosphorus (P) is a nutrient found in many fertilizers that feeds algae blooms in lakes. Switch to "P-free" fertilizers and follow these easy tips for healthy lawns and lakes...



Algae Bloom



LAWN TO LAKE

LAWN CARE TIPS FOR GREEN LAWNS NOT GREEN LAKES!

HEALTHY LAWN TIPS

for green lawns *not* green lakes!

FERTILIZE... Only with **phosphorus-free fertilizers**. Most northeastern lawns and 75% of Chittenden County lawns tested by UVM had enough phosphorus (P) and only need nitrogen (N)! Apply fertilizer once/year—the best time for this region is near Labor Day. Sweep up fertilizer from sidewalks and driveways, and don't fertilize before heavy rain.

WATER... if desired, in early morning, when there is less than one inch/week of rain. Grass will survive droughts without watering by going dormant.

PLANT GRASS SEED... on existing lawns and bare spots in the fall and spring to out compete weeds. Use a grass mixture that does well in the setting (soil, light, activity). Leave legumes, such as common white clover, in the grass to add nitrogen, which will naturally fertilize your lawn.

MOW... to maintain a height of 3 to 4 inches and cut off no more than 1/3 of grass blade. Leave clippings on lawn to add nutrients and organic matter, but be sure to sweep the clippings off pavement.

WEEDS... will be discouraged by following these tips! Just pull any that are left by hand.

TAKE A SOIL TEST... if you are seeding a new lawn, or want to learn more about your lawn's nutrient content, pH level and organic content.



LOOK FOR THE ZERO!

The three numbers on fertilizer bags show the N-P-K nutrient analysis. The middle number is the phosphate (phosphorus) content. A "zero" in the middle means it is phosphorus-free. Lawns rarely need extra potassium (K), but adding some does not affect water quality.

VISIT WWW.LAWNTOLAKE.ORG TO LEARN MORE AND FIND LOCAL STORES THAT CARRY "P-FREE" FERTILIZER OR CALL (800) 468-5227!

The "Lawn to Lake" Partners: Cornell Cooperative Extension ~ Lake Champlain Basin Program ~ Lake Champlain Committee ~ Regional Stormwater Education Program ~ VT Agency of Agriculture ~ VT Agency of Natural Resources ~ Lake Champlain Sea Grant / UVM Extension

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