Lawn Care Calendar

Seasonal tips for lawn care

Early spring: Test soil; Rake in compost (for organic lawn care); Aerate soil if re-seeding, re-seed; Mow at 3 inches or higher

Late Spring: Mow at 3 inches or higher; Compost clippings if there are dandelions

Summer: Fertilize as needed; Mow at 2 inches or higher; Water once per week if there is no precipitation

Early fall: Mow at 2 inches or higher; Re-seed with indigenous grasses (for organic lawn care)

Late fall: Mow at 2 inches or higher; Compost clippings if you have a lot of leaves or debris

Beacon Beekman Hyde Park
Dutchess County DPW Union Vale
Dutchess County
MS4
Coordination Committee
East Fishkill Town & Village of Fishkill
LaGrange Village of Wappingers Falls
Town & Village of Pawling Pleasant Valley
Wappinger City & Town of Poughkeepsie

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Farm and Home Center
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DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1945

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This brochure was prepared with funding from the Dutchess County MS4 Coordination Committee. Thanks to Cornell Cooperative Extension, Lawn to Lake.org, Grassroots Healthy Lawn Program , and Washington State Department of Ecology. for assisting with information provided herein. Please visit New York Department of Conservation's website for details regarding fertilizer application restrictions at www.dec.ny.gov

PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION WILL REDUCE SURFACE WATER AND PROTECT GROUNDWATER

Tips for reducing phosphorus impacts

2017

Caring for your healthy lawn…

"0" phosphorus in fertilizer sold in New York state as of 2012

Fertilizing Facts

Fertilizer bags indicate N-P-K nutrient content. Save money by measuring the surface area of your lawn to determine how much fertilizer to purchase.

N (nitrogen): Choose a product with low nitrogen or slow-release forms of nitrogen such as urea, formaldehyde, IBDU or sulfur-coated urea. Aim to apply 1 lb of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn area.

P (phosphorus): As of 2012, phosphorus-containing fertilizer is no longer for sale in New York State. Phosphorus application is also restricted in New York State – only allowed if you are establishing a new lawn or if a test shows that the lawn is P-deficient. Soil tests provide results for the concentration of P and potassium (K). If a soil test indicates that your lawn is already high in P and K, choose a fertilizer with 21-0-0 or 46-0-0. If your soil has low P and K concentrations, choose a fertilizer with a higher K ratio such as 23-0-6.

What can YOU do to reduce phosphorus impacts?

- ***Watering***

Water in the early morning if there is less than one inch of rain per week.

- ***Mowing***

Mow at 3 inches (or more) above the ground surface during spring and fall and at 2 inches during summer. Cut off no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time. Leave grass clippings on the lawn in order to return nutrients to the lawn. Consider bagging and composting clippings or use a mulching mower.

- ***Aeration***

Aerate your lawn (via tiller or raking) if it is compacted or has a thick layer of thatch to improve the lawn's capacity for water absorption.

- ***Clean up***

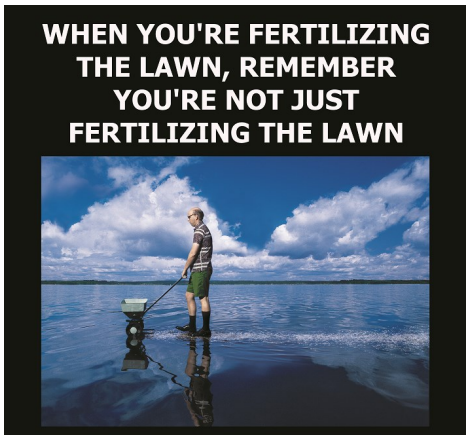
Pick up any extra fertilizer or grass clippings that might accidentally be left on the pavement so that the fertilizer and clippings do not end up in local waterbodies causing excessive algal growth.

- ***Septic Systems***

Address failing septic systems that contribute phosphorus into stormwater conveyance systems

- ***Pet Waste***

Clean up pet waste and dispose of it properly to prevent it from entering storm drains.



Lawns need nutrients in fertilizer to stay green and healthy. However, when too much fertilizer is applied, it can wash off the lawn during rain events. Nutrients then flow through storm sewers into local waterbodies where they become an energy source for algae and aquatic weeds. Use these tips to keep your local waterbodies clean while enjoying a healthy lawn.

To learn more about the impacts of Phosphorus and regulation in New York State visit:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html#impact

http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/74885.html