



Use phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer to protect Indiana's lakes and rivers

Phosphorus is the primary nutrient that turns lakes and rivers green with algae.

Know about Phosphorus

Look for the middle number on a bag of fertilizer. It should be zero (0).



Fertilizers containing phosphorus may be used on lawns if a soil or plant tissue test indicates that it is needed **or** if you are establishing a new lawn by laying sod or seeding.

Use care when used for agricultural crops, flower and vegetable gardening, **or** on golf courses by trained staff.

DO NOT spread any fertilizer on hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, and driveways. Rain can wash the fertilizer into nearby storm drains or road ditches, eventually getting into a lake or river nearby.

If you accidentally spill or spread fertilizer on a hard surface, clean it up immediately.

THE PROBLEM: TOO GREEN

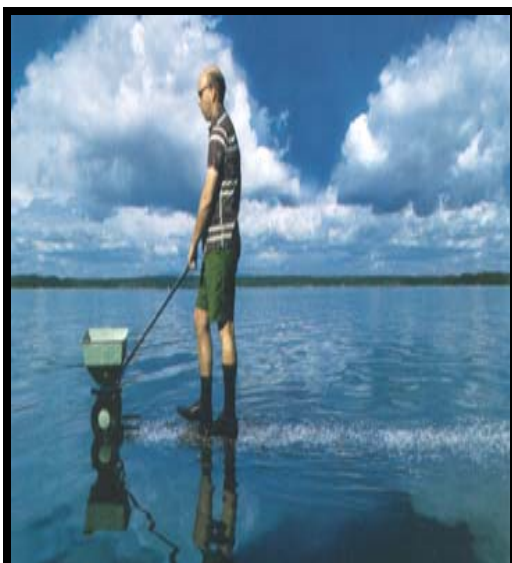
GREEN AND MURKY

Excess algae and weed growth is a major problem in many Indiana's lakes and waterways. One pound of phosphorus can result in hundreds of pounds of algae.



MORE PHOSPHORUS, FEWER FISH

Too much algae lowers oxygen levels and darkens the water. In severe cases, this can have a devastating effect on fish populations.



Will phosphorus-free fertilizer keep my lawn healthy?

Soils in most parts of Indiana already have an adequate amount of phosphorus to grow a healthy lawn. In these instances, adding more phosphorus with fertilizer is not needed and will not benefit your lawn.

Get a soil test if you want to know your lawn's phosphorus levels - see next page.

FERTILIZE RESPONSIBLY!

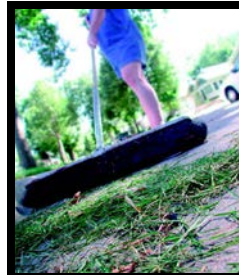
Most garden centers and hardware stores carry phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers.

What can I do to protect water quality?

Fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, animal waste, and eroded soil are all sources of phosphorus. When they are swept or washed into the street or nearest storm drain, they end up in your local lake or river.

You can do your part to protect water quality by doing the following:

- Buy phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer.
- Apply fertilizer at the recommended rate. Late summer is the best time. Don't fertilize before a storm. Never apply to frozen ground.
- Keep soil, leaves, and lawn clippings out of the street.
- Mow higher. Keeping your grass length to 2.5-3 inches is healthier for your lawn.
- Pick up pet waste promptly. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients that cause excess algae and weed growth in lakes and rivers.
- Control soil erosion around your house. When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulch.



SWEEP IT UP Grass clippings, leaves, or fertilizer left on streets and sidewalks can be a major source of phosphorus pollution in lakes and rivers.



How do I find out what my soil needs?

If you are concerned that your lawn may need phosphorus, a soil test is a good idea. A list of laboratories certified for soil testing are available through the University of Purdue: https://ag.purdue.edu/agry/extension/Pages/soil_testing.aspx, or you can also use the A&L Great Lakes Lab, Inc. located at 3505 Conestoga Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46808-4414, Tel: 260-483-4759 <http://www.algreatlakes.com>.

Hancock County



*Moe says
"We gotta have
clean water"*

Stormwater Partnership

Hancock County MS4s and Partnership

Town of McCordsville #317-335-3151

Hancock County Surveyor's Office #317-477-1150

Town of New Palestine #317-861-4727

Town of Cumberland #317-894-6203

Town of Fortville #317-485-4044 Ext 103

City of Greenfield #317-325-1327

Solid Waste Management District #317-462-7605

Soil and Water Conservation District #317-462-2283 Ext 3