

DON'T "P" ON YOUR LAWN!



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



Algae Bloom



LAWN TO LAKE

LAWN CARE TIPS FOR GREEN LAWNS

HEALTHY LAWN TIPS

for green lawns *not* green lakes!

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.

FERTILIZE... only with phosphorus-free fertilizers. Most Indiana lawns have enough phosphorus (P) and only need nitrogen (N)! The best time to fertilize is spring and fall. Your soil test results will determine your fertilizer needs. 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 of rain per week. During droughts, grass will survive without watering by going dormant.

PLANT GRASS SEED... on existing lawns at least once a year with a mix of grass seed and compost. 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 grassblade. Leave clippings on lawn to add nutrients and organic matter, but be sure to sweep the clippings off pavement.

WEEDS... will be discouraged by using these tips! Pull any weeds that grow by hand.

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LOOK FOR THE ZERO!

The three numbers on fertilizer bags show the N-P-K nutrient analysis. Nitrogen (N) is an important nutrient for a healthy lawn. The middle number is the phosphate/phosphorus (P) 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.

The Great lakes "Lawn to Lake" Partners: Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, University of Illinois Extension, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Safer Pest Control Project. Adapted from the original "Lawn to Lake" Lake Champlain Basin Program.