

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...

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 and Illinois lawns have enough 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 by hand any weeds that grow.

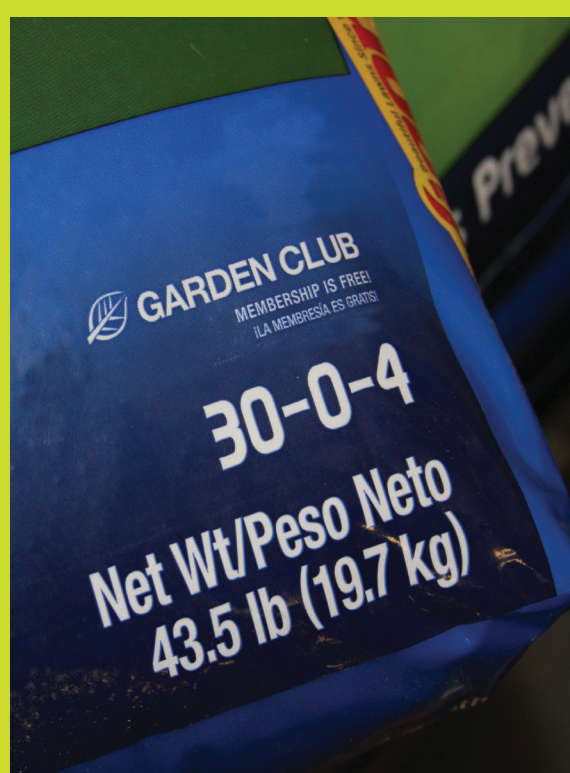


Algae blooms or clear water? You can make a difference!

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.LAWNTOGREATLAKES.ORG to learn more and find local stores that carry "P-free" fertilizer

The Lawn to Lake Partners: Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, University of Illinois Extension, Safer Pest Control, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Lake Champlain Sea Grant

LAWN TO LAKE

LAWN CARE TIPS FOR GREEN LAWNS NOT GREEN LAKES!