

Phosphorus-Free Lawn Fertilizer Guidelines



Protecting Colorado's water one yard at a time

These lawn care guidelines will help protect our watersheds and downstream conditions while saving you water, money, time, and keeping your lawn looking great all summer. Use less phosphorus when you can and keep your driveway, curb, and storm drain clean.



Lawn Fertilizer Do's

- ∞ Use phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers
- ∞ Get your soils tested about every 3 years
- ∞ Most important time to fertilize is in the fall
- ∞ Check your spreader to make sure it works
- ∞ Read and follow all fertilizer directions
- ∞ Clean up all spills, even small ones
- ∞ Calculate lawn area in square feet
- ∞ Know the three numbers (N:P:K) for your fertilizer so you can follow application rates
- ∞ Fertilize 2-4 times a season
- ∞ Know the weather forecast before applying
- ∞ Lightly water after fertilizing
- ∞ Find out what type of grass you have
- ∞ Mulching is better than bagging your clippings
- ∞ Lawn aeration and right pH levels are important
- ∞ Use phosphorus only when soil tests show low levels or if you are seeding a new lawn
- ∞ Weigh your fertilizer bag before each application



Lawn Fertilizer Don'ts

- ∞ Assume if a little is good then a lot is better
- ∞ Apply fertilizers right before a storm
- ∞ Apply fertilizer right after a storm
- ∞ Apply fertilizers to frozen ground
- ∞ Blow clippings and fertilizer into the street
- ∞ Not fertilizer at all and have bare ground
- ∞ Apply during the heat of the summer
- ∞ Apply near open waters, wetlands, grassy swales, or near any impervious surfaces
- ∞ Put anything down the storm drain
- ∞ Apply fertilizers to bare ground
- ∞ Apply more than a pound of nitrogen per time
- ∞ Apply > 3 pounds of nitrogen per year
- ∞ Clean equipment in the street or driveway
- ∞ Throw away fertilizers in the trash
- ∞ Fertilize buffalo grass in the spring and fall
- ∞ Throw lawn clippings into the trash or drain



Phosphorus-Free Lawn Fertilizer Coalition Supporters

