## Fertilize Appropriately





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A simple way for you to protect lakes and rivers, as well as drinking water supplies, is to take a few preventative measures when applying fertilizer to your lawn.

- ✓ Have your soil tested, which can tell you if your soils are phosphorus or nitrogen deficient. Most Illinois and Indiana soils have enough phosphorus (P) and may only need nitrogen (N).
- ✓ Know your numbers. All bags of fertilizer will have a label showing the nutrient analysis, such as 22-0-15, which corresponds to nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium or N-P-K.
- ✓ Beware of combined pesticide-fertilizer products such as weed and feed. Choose a slow-release fertilizer instead.
- ✓ Do not apply fertilizer if moderate or heavy rain is in the immediate forecast. Heavy rains can quickly wash fertilizer into nearby storm drains or waterbodies.
- ✓ Sweep up any pesticides and fertilizers on sidewalks and curbs.
- ✓ Maintain a "no fertilizer" zone of 10-30 feet around lakes and streams.

TAKE THE LAWN TO LAKE PLEDGE TO PROTECT YOUR LOCAL WATERWAYS.

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