

## TEN TIPS FOR FERTILIZING YOUR LAWN

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### **1. Get Tested**

Have your soil tested for pH levels and the need for additional nutrients. This will help determine which fertilizers and supplements are needed.

### **2. Buy What You Need**

Buy organic or synthetic fertilizer. Don't use a weed and feed product unless you have widespread weed problems in your yard. Instead, use straight fertilizer and spot treat or pull weeds. Ask the Cooperative Extension Service or your local garden center for specific guidance.

### **3. Slow It Down**

Select lawn-grade fertilizers that include Slow Release Nitrogen to prevent lawn burn, reduce runoff and leaching of nutrients into groundwater.

### **4. Be Well Read**

Read and follow all label directions when applying fertilizer. Incorrect application such as spilling onto paved surfaces can result in fertilizer being washed down storm sewers and ending up in our waterways.

### **5. Chill Out**

Grass will not use fertilizer when it is not actively growing. To prevent runoff pollution of lakes and streams, never apply fertilizers to frozen ground or pavement.

### **6. Spread It Out**

Be sure your spreader is working and adjusted properly. Read and follow the spreader setting instructions on the fertilizer label so that your spreader applies the correct amount of fertilizer.

### **7. Recycle Your Lawn**

Leave the height of your grass long when mowing and leave clippings on your lawn to decompose. "Grass-cycling" is a great source of nitrogen and saves water and fertilizer.

### **8. Recycle Your Yard**

Compost leaves, yard debris, and non-meat food scraps. They make great mulch for the garden.

### **9. Slenderize Your Yard**

Keep your yard healthy by controlling how much fertilizer it gets. Follow recommended rates for lawns in your area.

### **10. Protect The Borders**

When applying fertilizers, maintain a buffer strip or fertilizer-free zone around the edges of lakes and streams.

**Additional information can be found by following the link below:**

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/pesticideslawn.htm>

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