

💧 Healthy Soil 💧 Healthy Lawn 💧 Healthy Pond 💧

Lawn & Garden Tips

What is the difference between chemical, organic & slow-release fertilizers?

- 🌿 **Chemical Fertilizers** are made from synthetic materials and typically contain 3 main nutrients: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) (referred to as N-P-K).
- 🌿 **Organic Fertilizers** are made from natural materials and can contain all three main nutrients (N-P-K) or just one or two of these. Organic fertilizers also often contain small amounts of micronutrients that help build healthy soil.
- 🌿 **Slow Release Fertilizers** can be organic or chemical (although not as common) and are released into the soil slowly over time. Choose an organic or slow release type.

If you fertilize your lawn, choose a low or no phosphorus fertilizer (this is the middle # in the N-P-K ratio on the bag). Excess phosphorus from fertilizers can enter waterways and lead to algae blooms and aquatic weeds. In fact, only 5 pounds of phosphorus is needed to produce up to 20,000 pounds of aquatic weeds! That could fill 40 pick-up trucks!

Keep the green where it belongs!

This project was developed by Pennichuck Water Works through a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Source Water Protection Program with contributing efforts from the Town of Amherst and Town of Merrimack.

Put Your Lawn on a
Buy Less & Use Less Fertilizer



DIET



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When is the best time to apply fertilizer to my lawn?

- 🌿 If you choose to fertilize your lawn, an economical & efficient time is early Fall with weather conditions ideal for producing new growth in both roots and leaves.
- 🌿 If this does not give you the quality lawn you are looking for, fertilizer may be applied twice per year for a higher maintenance lawn. In this case, apply fertilizer only after your grass greens up in the Spring and then again in early Fall. Avoid Summer fertilizer applications. Grass plants *naturally* go dormant in the Summer.
- 🌿 Help protect you & your family by eliminating fertilizer use within 75' of your drinking water well & within 250' of surface waters. Fertilizer can easily move down through the soil and into groundwater or move over the soil and runoff into surface waters – both can threaten our drinking and recreational water resources.
- 🌿 Remember – don't feed your lawn 'junk food' – choose a low/no phosphorus (phosphorus is the middle # in the N-**P**-K ratio), slow release or organic fertilizer.

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I want to fertilize my lawn – how much should I apply?

- 🌿 First, determine the area or square footage of your lawn and always calibrate your spreader prior to use. Consider doing a soil test before applying any fertilizer.
- 🌿 Select a slow release, organic, low, or no phosphorus fertilizer (phosphorus is the middle # in the N-P-K ratio). Apply less (never more) than the label rate and monitor your lawn's response. You can always add a little more later if you need to.
- 🌿 If a synthetic fertilizer is used, apply only half of the recommended label rate and monitor your lawn's response. Sweep up fertilizer that may land on sidewalks & driveways. Consider top-dressing your lawn with compost or other organic matter to build healthy soil which often requires less fertilizer in the future.
- 🌿 Help protect you and your family by eliminating fertilizer use within 75 feet of your drinking water well and within 250 feet of surface waters.

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