



Fertilizers

DON'T GUESS, DO A SOIL TEST

For more information about soil testing, contact your UW Extension office

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 75% of lawns in the Minneapolis and St. Paul Metropolitan Area had high to very high phosphorus concentrations and **additions of phosphorus fertilizer did not improve turf growth.**

If your soil test determines you need a lawn fertilization program, remember:

- a lawn fertilization program should begin in early October and not the spring
- fall fertilizer applications should be made when the average daily temperature drops to 50 degrees Fahrenheit
- sweep excess fertilizer from sidewalks and driveways onto the lawn
- use low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free fertilizers
- never pour fertilizer down the storm drain



When Nitrogen and Phosphorus runoff our lawns into our lakes and rivers they increase algae growth and dissolve oxygen levels



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Read the fertilizer bags

Nitrogen - the first number (leaving grass clippings on the lawn can reduce nitrogen applications by 30-40 percent)

Phosphate – the middle number (many soils already contain enough phosphorus for a healthy lawn - **use low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free fertilizers**)

Potash – the last number (supplies potassium)

This information is provided for use and dissemination by NEWSC. Contact us with any questions.

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