



Proposed Recommendations for Nitrogen Turf Grass Application

Work Group Call December 19, 2018

Element
<p><u>Nutrient Runoff Law</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No fertilizing lawns or non-agricultural turf between November 1 and April 1, annually. b. Fertilizer products cannot be applied on any impervious surface including parking lots, roadways, storm drains, frozen ground, and sidewalks, or where there is standing water on turf. If such application occurs, the fertilizer must be immediately contained and either legally applied to lawn or non-agricultural turf or placed in an appropriate container; or c. Fertilizer products cannot be applied to any lawn or non-agricultural turf on any real property within twenty feet of any surface water, except that this restriction shall not apply where a continuous natural vegetative buffer, at least ten feet wide, separates an area of lawn or non-agricultural turf and surface water, and except that, where a spreader guard, deflector shield or drop spreader is used to apply fertilizer, such application may not occur within three feet of any surface water. This paragraph shall not apply to an application of fertilizer for newly established lawn or non-agricultural turf during the first growing season.
<p><u>Percent Slowly Available Nitrogen</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Contain at least 50% slowly available nitrogen of the total nitrogen in the product.
<p><u>Application Rates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Single application rate of 0.6 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. b. Annual application rate of 1.8 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. c. Records of application rates for each property will need to be kept.
<p><u>Spreaders/Application Equipment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Calibrated each time fertilizer products are changed, or at least once annually (this would apply to both homeowners and professional landscapers).
<p><u>Retail Sales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No retail sale of fertilizer between November 1 and March 15. b. Displays of fertilizer products removed from the sales floor between November 8 and March 15.

Irrigation Systems (both new and existing)

- a. Be operational prior to any fertilizer application and be able to provide an application of ¼ inch of water to fertilized areas within 24 hours of application, if no rainfall has occurred.
- b. Be equipped with either a rain sensor, moisture sensor or an EPA Water Sense approved smart controller or in any combination.
- c. Be in proper working condition, such as having no broken or malfunctioning equipment, and work to the capabilities as designed.
- d. Not run between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm daily; except where new sod/seed lawns are being grown and/or where an application of pesticides requires immediate watering as directed on the label.
- e. Not provide more than 1 ½ inch of supplemental water per week.
- f. Not run during rainfall.

Fertilizer Packaging Containing Nitrogen

- a. Application directions in both English and Spanish languages
- b. Include on product packaging only the application equipment settings for the single application rate of 0.6 pounds per 1000 sq² of total nitrogen.
- c. Include a statement containing the single and annual application rates.
- d. Clearly state on product packaging the square footage of turf that is covered by the entire package when applied at 0.6 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 sq² feet.
- e. Clearly state the percentage of slowly available nitrogen of total nitrogen contained in the product.
- f. Include an environmental clause, “Apply this product as directed on the label. Do not over apply product. Over application can lead to poor water quality.”

Golf Courses

- a. Adherence to existing laws in place of no fertilizer use between the designated time frames allowed and to the New York State Nutrient Runoff Law.
- b. A seasonal limit on the amount of nitrogen applied per calendar year not to exceed more than 2.7 pounds of total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
- c. Independent of bag analysis, no granular application greater than 0.7 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet and no greater than 60% water soluble nitrogen in content.
- d. No 100% liquid, water soluble application of fertilizer greater than 0.5 pounds of nitrogen per application.
- e. A Natural Disaster exception that would allow turf managers to apply nitrogen on an “as need basis,” not to exceed the parameters set forth in points 3 and 4, for the reestablishment of turfgrass when stands of turf grass suffer greater than 10% turf loss per thousand square feet. For the purpose of turf reestablishment, natural disaster shall be defined as a natural event such a flood, hurricane, winter related injury or drought related injury.
- f. A Turf Establishment exception that would allow turf managers to apply nitrogen on an “as need basis” for the establishment of turf from seed on bare soil in accordance with the parameter set forth in points 3 and 4.
- g. Keep records.

Grass Clippings

- a. Left on the lawn.

NOTE:

- 1. Recommendations do NOT apply to agricultural turf or athletic fields.

2. Education is critical to making the recommendations a success.

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