



FROM LARRY THE H2O HERO

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LAWN FERTILIZER

Stormwater runoff from yards in which fertilizers have been misapplied, by such practices as using too much or spreading onto sidewalks or driveways, will flow into storm drains that lead to neighborhood stormwater ponds and local creeks. The nutrients in the fertilizer will pollute this stormwater and will often contribute to unsightly algae blooms in local neighborhood stormwater ponds, frequently resulting in obnoxious odors when this algae dies off and decays. Eventually, this nutrient polluted water will make its way to Lake Ontario and contribute to the algae problems found at Ontario Beach.

Homeowners can take action to reduce these impacts and help protect water quality by ensuring that **ONLY ZERO PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZERS** are applied to their lawns, as well as **SWEEPING UP** fertilizer that ends up on impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways. Most soils in Monroe County already have sufficient phosphorus to support a healthy lawn. Applying fertilizers only once a year in the fall, the most important time of the year to fertilize, will also greatly reduce the amount of nutrients reaching our local waterways.

Recognizing the serious impacts of fertilizers on water quality, New York State has recently passed a law which prohibits phosphorus in fertilizers for established lawns starting in 2012. This law also requires that fertilizer put on impervious surfaces be picked up. So get a jump start on these future legal requirements and start protecting our local waterbodies today!

DID YOU KNOW?

- The storm drains located on your street or in your back yard lead directly to local creeks and ponds. Water, or any materials, entering these stormdrains receive **NO TREATMENT**.
- The label on the fertilizer bag shows three numbers which indicate the percentage by weight of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, in that order. So make sure you choose a fertilizer that has 0 phosphorus, for example 26-0-3

For more information about local stormwater pollution and what you can do to reduce it, visit www.H2OHero.org and become a fan of Larry the H2O Hero on Facebook!

A message from The Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County and the Water Education Collaborative.