

**Turf & Landscape: Fertilizers**

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Fertilizer applied to a healthy, perennial ground cover is tightly held in the rootzone soil or utilized by the plants. Fertilizers enter ground water, lakes and streams via soil run-off or by the fertilizer directly entering the water system by misapplication or removal clippings/plant tissue.

1. Apply 1-4 lbs N/year with a slow-release source of nitrogen (~50% slow release).
2. On sandy soils, never over-apply fertilizer, use a slow-release source and do not over-water following the application.
3. Never apply fertilizer to frozen, bare, or snow-covered soil.
4. Return grass clippings.
5. Never sweep/blow clippings, leaves or tree seeds into storm drains.
6. Always sweep up misapplied fertilizer from hard surfaces.
7. Pick up animal waste.
8. When renovating, do not leave bare soil to sit for long periods of time.
9. Create a buffer zone several feet wide near water, to avoid misapplication.
10. Use a drop spreader, rather than a rotary spreader, for precision application