Lawnowners: Make Sure Your Landscaper Is Certified!

Contact Consumer Affairs at 631-853-4600

As part of Local Law 41-2007 (http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/resos2007/i2117-07.htm), all Home Improvement Contractors licensed by Suffolk County who apply fertilizer to turfgrass must take a County-approved turf management course.

ATTENTION LANDSCAPERS: To find out more about the course or about the Nitrogen Fertilizer Reduction Initiative, visit http://healthylawns.suffolkcountyny.gov

EXCESS NUTRIENTS FROM FERTILIZERS LEAD TO HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS LIKE BROWN TIDE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

Best management practices for Long Island lawns: Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County: 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901. Horticulture Information Lines can be reached at 631-727-4126 and 631-581-4223.

Lawns: Visit Cornell University's website: http://blogs.cornell.edu/horticulture/

Watering lawns: Visit Cornell University's Northeast Regional Climate Center website: www.nrcc.cornell.edu/grass/moisture/moisture.html

Switching from high to low maintenance lawn care reduces pollution and could save you up to $253 a year!

A MESSAGE FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE STEVE BELLONE:

Water is at the heart of everything on Long Island. It is critical to our health and our quality of life. My administration's top priority is purifying Long Island's water supply. Enclosed in this brochure are steps that you can take to help solve the nitrogen crisis here in Suffolk County.

This publication is fully funded by the Suffolk County Executive's Office and produced by the Department of Economic Development and Planning Division of Water Quality Improvement, H. Lee Dennison Building, 100 Veterans Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 6100, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

STEVE BELLONE

PRESENTS

Healthy Lawns Clean Water

Save money while saving our environment!

Visit the Healthy Lawns Clean Water website at http://healthylawns.suffolkcountyny.gov

Protect our drinking water...
Be wise when you fertilize!

Suffolk County Law 41-2007

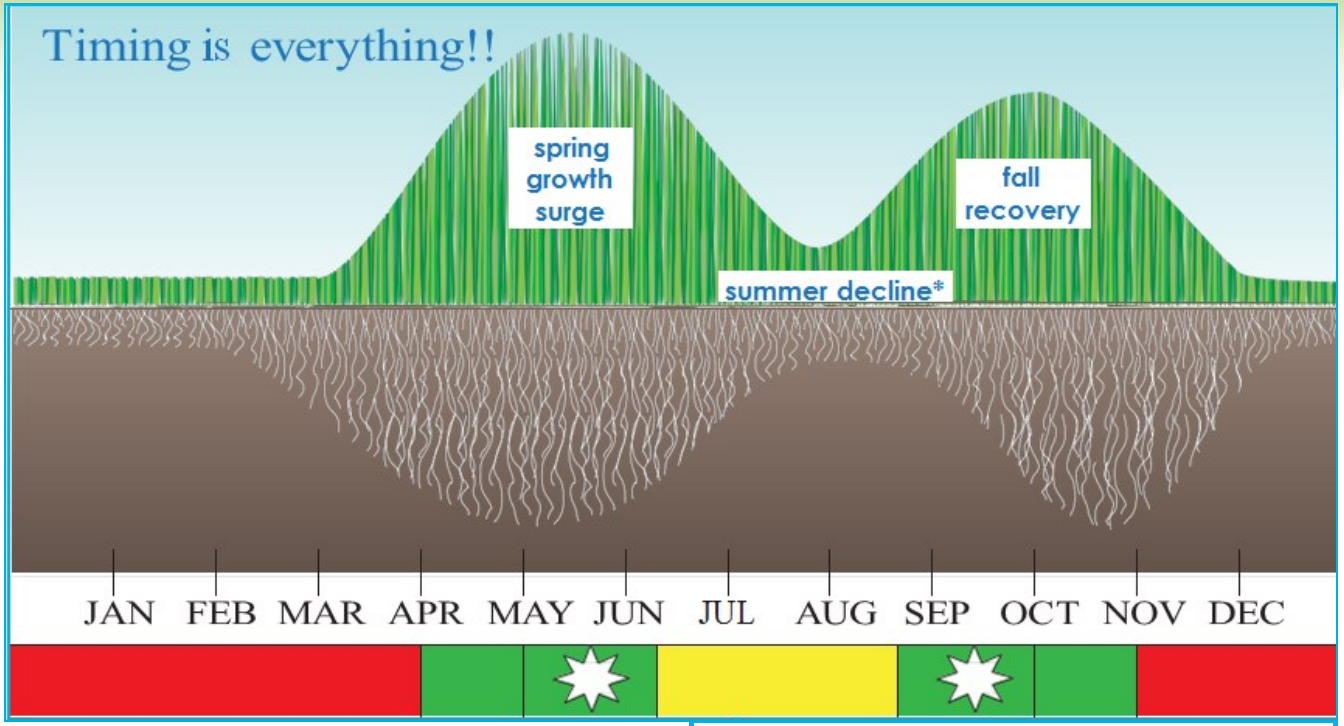
This law was passed to reduce nitrogen pollution in our groundwater and surface water caused by improper lawn fertilization.

Between November 1st and April 1st, fertilizer applications to lawns are **prohibited**. Violators may be fined up to $1,000.

BEST PRACTICES FOR LAWNOWNERS AND LANDSCAPERS

- Mow high – 3 inches or taller – to encourage roots to forage for water and nutrients.
- Leave clippings on the lawn to add nutrients to your soil, reducing fertilizer needs.
- Don't overwater. On average, lawns need about 1 inch of water weekly from rainfall or irrigation. Overwatering can leach nutrients into groundwater.
- Check soil pH. When pH is 6.0 to 7.0, roots can use nutrients more efficiently. Apply lime to low pH soils. Buy a pH test at your local hardware store or bring a soil sample to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.
- Choose the best grasses for your site. When overseeding bare areas, use pest-resistant varieties and grasses that require less nitrogen. You can achieve a greener lawn naturally by selecting darker green grass varieties.

Be careful when establishing lawns not to apply fertilizer too early. Wait until seeds have germinated or the sod has rooted.



TIPS FOR APPLYING NITROGEN FERTILIZER TO ESTABLISHED LAWNS

- Make sure you know how big your lawn is and only apply the amount needed. Make sure the spreader is calibrated to apply the correct rate.
- Individual applications of nitrogen should not exceed 1 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. and should total no more than 2-3 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.
- Lightly water in fertilizer after application. Avoid applying water soluble fertilizers when heavy rainfall is expected.
- Avoid using rotary spreaders near water or impervious surfaces like roads, driveways and sidewalks.
- Sweep up any fertilizer that may land on driveways or sidewalks to avoid fertilizers reaching storm drains.

	Fertilizer applications are prohibited at this time. Turf is not actively growing so fertilizer applications are not beneficial. The potential for fertilizer leaching into groundwater or running off into surface water is the greatest during these periods.
	Fertilizing during this time of year is acceptable under the law.
	Fertilizing during this time of year is acceptable under the law. Lawns are under stress in the summer especially if not receiving any irrigation. Fertilizing during this period is less beneficial.
	Fertilizing at these times helps minimize water pollution and are the best times to get a green lawn.

* Adequate rainfall or irrigation can maintain growth and turf quality throughout the summer.