

LAKE FRIENDLY YARD MAINTENANCE

Managing waste on lakefront and lake adjacent property helps prevent excessive weed growth

*Preserve Our Water Quality. Please Use **Phosphorus-Free** Fertilizers.*

In areas where stormwater crosses impervious surfaces, it can pick up phosphorous, among other pollutants. Sediments wash into streams and out into the Lake, bringing phosphorus attached to soil particles.

One way to help stop this transfer of phosphorus into the Lake is to stop the sources of it, such as using a lake-friendly fertilizer that does not contain phosphorus.

Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer: *What do I look for?* The three numbers in fertilizer bags show the N-P-K nutrient analysis. *The middle number is the phosphate (phosphorus) content. A “zero” in the middle means it is phosphorus free.*

Will phosphorus-free fertilizer keep my lawn green and healthy? Yes!

Soils in most parts of Massachusetts already have an adequate amount of phosphorus to grow a healthy lawn. In these instances, adding more phosphorus with fertilizer is not needed and will not benefit your lawn.

How do I find out what my soil needs? If you are concerned that your lawn may need phosphorus, you can have your soil tested. *Soil testing is available at a reasonable price through the [Mass Department of Agriculture](#)*

What else can you do to protect water quality besides using a phosphorus-free fertilizer on your lawn?

You can protect water quality and prevent excessive weed growth by doing the following:

- Apply fertilizer at the recommended rate.
- Fall is the best time to apply for good results.
- Don't fertilize before a storm.
- Never apply to frozen ground.
- **Yard Waste:** keep soil, leaves, and lawn clippings out of the waterfront, ditches, storm drains, and streams by bagging them, composting them, or leaving them right on the lawn as a natural fertilizer. Yard waste can clog catch basins and storm drains, increasing the risk of flooding. Yard scraps that enter rivers absorb oxygen as they decompose which can strain or kill aquatic life.
- **Never blow or rake leaves into the waterfront, gutter, or storm drain.** Use approved containers for curb side pick-up of lawn scraps, do your own composting, or take scraps to a landfill that composts.
- **Mow higher.** Keeping your grass length to 2½ – 3 inches is healthier for your lawn - and means you can mow less often!

PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

- *Pick up pet waste.* Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as phosphorus. Use newspaper, bags, or pooper-scoopers to pick up pet waste. Place wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet. Never discard pet waste near or in a storm drain or in the lake.
- *Control soil erosion around your house.* When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented *by covering exposed soil with vegetation or mulch.*
- *Household Cleaners and Other Chemicals:* It's important to dispose of cleaners and chemicals in the proper manner. Read the instructions on the container or contact your local transfer station or waste management district.

Required Boat Maintenance

when you take your boat from one lake to another

It is a Massachusetts LAW!

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

In Massachusetts, boaters and anyone using water-related equipment are **required** to "Clean, Drain, and Dry" their gear to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). This means removing all visible plants, animals, and mud from boats and equipment, draining all water from compartments and devices, and allowing everything to dry completely before using it in another body of water.

Please do your part to prevent the spread of invasive weeds in our lake:

- Remove all plants and animals from your boat motor, trailer, anchors, fishing gear, and dive gear and dispose of them on dry land, well away from the water or in a trash can.
- Flush engines and dispose of live-well, bait bucket, and cooling water away from the shore after each use.
- Never release any plant or animal into a body of water unless it came out of that body of water.
- Never empty aquariums into a waterbody.
- Inspect and wash your boat, preferably with hot water, and allow it to completely dry before entering another body of water

We appreciate the efforts of everyone on and around the lake!

- LMPA Executive Board