New Jersey's Fertilizer Law, enacted in 2011, is about protecting clean water. It's designed to help you feed your lawn while reducing polluted runoff that harms local streams and rivers.

Resources:

- *www.anjec.org*
- NJDEP Healthy Lawns, Healthy Water *www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater/*
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program *Water.rutgers.edu*
- Rutgers Fertilizer Law FAQs *https://ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu/ag/documents/NJFertilizerLaw2011.pdf*
- Soil testing service from Rutgers *njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/*
- Rutgers professional fertilizer application certification *profact.rutgers.edu/Pages/default.aspx*

ANJEC

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
NFWF

New Jersey's
Fertilizer Law

HOW–TO GUIDE FOR:

Healthy Lawns *and* Clean Water

Clean water sustains life for all of us. A great place to begin protecting water is in your own yard.

The rainwater that falls on our lawns and gardens picks up chemicals from fertilizers. Rain transports those chemicals into streams, often into our drinking water.

Fertilizers cause "blooms" of algae and plants in local streams, algae eventually die off and get consumed by bacteria. The bacteria deplete oxygen in the water, causing fish kills and water pollution. Overuse of organic and conventional fertilizers create the same problems.

What the Law requires of residents:

- **At least 20 percent of nitrogen in lawn fertilizers must be a slow-release variety.**
- **Do not apply fertilizers within 25 feet of a waterway.**
- **Avoid applying lawn fertilizer when rain is falling or predicted.**
- **Never apply fertilizer when the ground is frozen or at times when the ground typically cannot absorb nutrients, specifically from November 15 to March 1.**
- **Professional lawn care providers may not apply fertilizer from December 1 through March 1.**

Green Lawns with Less Fertilizer

- Monitor lawn and address problems quickly. Treat only problems that exist and use natural or mechanical controls when possible.
- Consider converting part (or all!) of your lawn to natural landscaping, using native plants that will save money, time and the environment.
- Aerate the soil before seeding.
- Consider drought tolerant species of grass when adding new lawn or reseeding.
- Use a mulching mower.
- Test your soil before treatment to determine needed chemicals/levels – if any.
- Sweep up loose fertilizer or chemicals. Don't hose it down the drain or to the street!
- Spread compost on lawn as recommended for species of grass.

Poor watering practices can do more harm to your lawn than good. Excess water can carry pollutants out of your yard and into waterways

- Most lawns need about 1 inch of water per week.
- Reduce or eliminate watering based on rainfall amounts.
- Don't apply water faster than the soil can absorb it.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid runoff, use smart control sprinklers .