

Looking for a lawn fertilizer?

You can limit the amount of nitrogen you apply to your lawn and still have a nice lawn. Too much nitrogen turns nearby waters green - the excess isn't absorbed by your lawn but leaches into the groundwater below the soil and causes pollution in our coastal ponds. You will help keep the Vineyard's drinking water, ponds and bays clean for all out enjoyment.

Instead - reduce the need for lawn fertilizer and ensure efficient uptake of the fertilizer you do apply. Here's how:

TEST YOUR SOIL correct acidity with lime – this helps plants uptake of nitrogen and reduces nitrogen leaching into the groundwater.

TOPDRESS YOUR LAWN each spring by adding ¼” to ½” loam, until soil is 6” deep – this prevents nitrogen leaching into the groundwater.

USE NATIVE GRASS SEED MIXES - these grasses are adapted to our low-nitrogen soils and need less fertilizer to grow into healthy lawns. Use blends that contain fescues and perennial ryegrass. Avoid bluegrass; it needs 2X the nitrogen to grow in our droughty, sandy soils.

LEAVE GRASS CLIPPINGS ON YOUR LAWN – they are a natural source of slow-acting nitrogen fertilizer and protect your lawn from drought, as well.

APPLY ONLY 1 LB NITROGEN for every 20’ X 50’ of lawn area - read and follow label instructions and set your spreader, to avoid over-use.

USE FERTILIZER WITH 30% OR MORE WIN – Water Insoluble Nitrogen. It is slow-release, so prevents leaching into the groundwater.

FERTILIZE ONLY ONCE IN THE FALL to grow next year's healthy roots.

Try these tips and you will help keep the Vineyard's drinking water, ponds and bays clean for all our enjoyment.

Thank you!

www.vineyardconservation.org