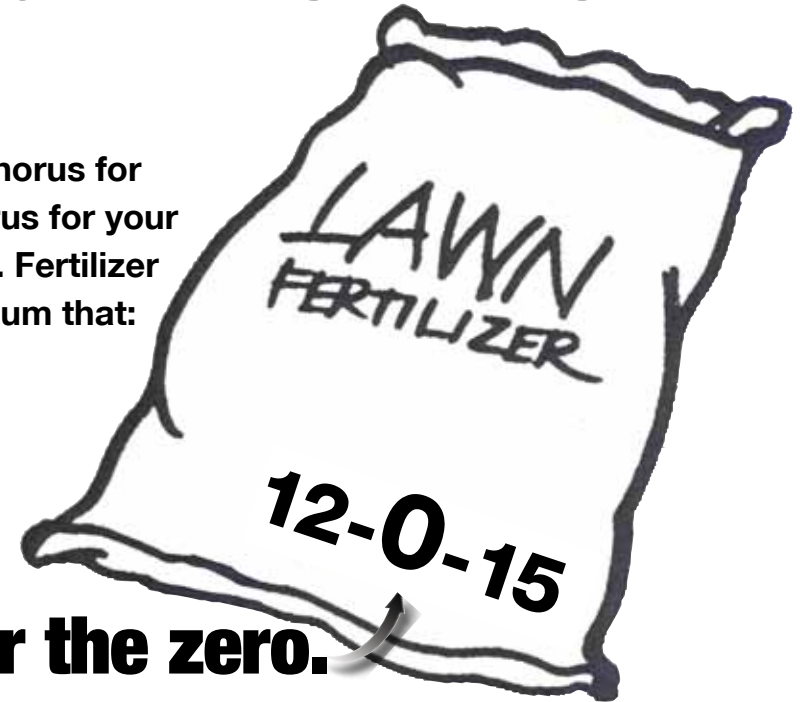


# Use Phosphorus-Free Lawn Fertilizer It's the Law!

Most lawns in New York State do not need additional phosphorus for healthy growth. When you use fertilizer containing phosphorus for your lawn, the rain can wash it into streams, lakes and reservoirs. Fertilizer in water can create excess algae, plant growth and green scum that:

- Interfere with boating and swimming
- Harm fish populations
- Degrade drinking water quality



**How do you know if you are using phosphorus-free fertilizer? Look for the zero.**

Check the fertilizer bag for a set of three numbers; they represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The number in the middle should be a “0.”

Phosphorus runoff poses a threat to water quality. Therefore, under New York law (effective January 1, 2012), phosphorus-containing fertilizer may only be applied to lawns or non-agricultural turf when:

- A soil test indicates that additional phosphorus is needed for growth of a lawn or non-agricultural turf.  
or
- The fertilizer is used for newly established lawns or non-agricultural turf during the first growing season.



Visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov> for more information.

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**