Buying Fertilizer?

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

LOOK FOR THE ZERO.

Protect Your Waters

Check the fertilizer bag for a set of three numbers showing the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Buy a bag with a "0" in the middle.

Zero pollution –
phosphorus washes off lawns and pollutes lakes and streams

Zero waste –
why pay for a chemical your lawn doesn't need (most don't)?

Zero hassle –
it's against the law to use phosphorus on lawns that don't need it*

* Phosphorus runoff is a threat to water quality. Under New York State law, phosphorus-containing fertilizer may only be applied to lawn or non-agricultural turf when:

– a soil test indicates that additional phosphorus is needed for growth of that lawn or non-agricultural turf;

OR

– the fertilizer is used for newly established lawn or non-agricultural turf during the first growing season

Phosphorus that runs off your lawn can end up in the water, causing excess algae that ruins boating and swimming and harms fish. It can also impact drinking water.

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