

Green Isn't Always Good

The 4 Rs of Fertilization



If you choose to fertilize, remember the 4 Rs of Fertilization:

- 1. Right Type.** Have your soil tested to determine fertilizer needs and choose a slow-release fertilizer. *Best Management Practice:* Use phosphate-free organic fertilizer.
- 2. Right Rate.** Soil test results will supply you with the appropriate fertilizer rate. Do not exceed the recommended rate and never apply more than 1.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. *Best Management Practice:* Use mulching blades on your mower and leave the grass clippings on the lawn.
- 3. Right Time.** September is the best time to fertilize lawns when cool season grasses are actively growing. *Best Management Practice:* Never apply fertilizer when rain and wind are in the forecast.
- 4. Right Place.** Proper fertilization techniques save money and protect waterways and wildlife. Avoid fertilizing near streams, ditches, hard surfaces, and slopes. *Best Management Practice:* Incorporate native plantings near streams, ditches, and slopes to better intercept pollutants before they enter waterways.

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