

Lawn Today.....Lake Tomorrow



💧 Excessive nutrients and pesticides in waterbodies can harm aquatic life and promote algae growth. NY has banned the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus, unless a soil test shows the need!

As you work outside this spring, keep in mind that what you put on your lawn could end up in local waterways, including Cayuga Lake. Rain washes fertilizers and pesticides from your lawn into ditches and catch basins, which lead to local streams, ponds, wetlands, and the lake.

What Can You Do?

- Before you fertilize, test your soil to find out what is needed and fertilize sparingly, if at all.
(<http://cctompkins.org/gardening/soils-climate/soil-testing-services>)
- Dispose of expired fertilizer and pesticides properly.
(TC Solid Waste—Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event)
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn or compost them.
- Do not fertilize or apply pesticides before a rain event or within 50 feet of a waterbody.
- Sweep fertilizer off driveways and sidewalks and back onto your lawn.
- Get expert advice from Master Gardeners through Cornell Cooperative Extension.

💧 For more information, visit www.tcstormwater.org 💧

