

**Statements of Uniform Interpretation and Policy**  
**regarding**  
**Fertilizer Restrictions for Urban Landscapes**

Draft: July 11, 2016

XX. Fertilizer Restrictions for Urban Landscapes – If a state finds **determines** that fertilizers from urban landscapes are contributing to water quality impairments, then restricting fertilizer use may be appropriate. When establishing fertilizer restrictions for urban landscapes, the following form is suggested.

- (1) This law applies to “urban turf or lawns”, which means non-agricultural land planted in closely mowed, managed grasses except golf courses, parks and athletic fields (AAPFCO Official Term T-74).
- (2) A person may not apply fertilizer:
  - (a) when the ground is frozen,
  - (b) to an impervious surface,
  - (c) during rain or when rain is imminent, or
  - (d) within “x” feet of surface water.
- (3) A person may apply fertilizer that is labeled as containing phosphate to urban turf or lawns only for the following uses:
  - (a) establishing grass in its first growing season;
  - (b) repairing damaged grass or over-seeding; or
  - (c) the soil is deficient in plant available phosphate, as shown by a soil test performed no more than “x” years before the application.
- (4) Retail display of an urban turf or lawn fertilizer that contains phosphate is prohibited unless the fertilizer includes labeling for one of the following:
  - (a) a use identified in sec. 3(a) to (c); or
  - (b) a use other than urban turf or lawns.
- (5) This law does not require local governments to monitor compliance, verify soil tests, take enforcement action, or otherwise participate in the administration or enforcement of this law.

(6) Any fertilizer requirements adopted by a local government shall be consistent with the requirements of secs. (1) to (4).

Based upon local conditions, states ~~must~~ may determine:

- (a) the appropriate buffer between fertilizer applications and surface water,
  - (b) the period for when soil test results remain valid,
  - (c) any appropriate nutrient application limits per application or per year, and
  - (d) whether to support recycling programs for biosolids, compost, natural organic fertilizers or manure-based products by excluding them or allowing a low phosphorus application rate to comply with the restrictions.
- ~~(d) Whether to support recycling goals by exempting recycled products where phosphorus cannot be avoided. Examples of these products are biosolids, compost, animal by products and natural organic fertilizers made from animal manures or plant materials. —~~