

# PHOSPHORUS-FREE FERTILIZER MEANS CLEANER LAKES

## WHEN YOU APPLY FERTILIZER TO YOUR LAWN, YOU ARE ADDING PHOSPHORUS TO OUR LAKES

Phosphorus washes off fertilized lawns and is carried to our lakes via the storm drainage system. Phosphorus feeds algae and decreases water clarity, often turning lakes green. By using zero-phosphorus lawn fertilizer we'll reduce phosphorus inputs to our lakes, resulting in fewer algae problems and clearer water. For Lake Mendota, experts predict we'll enjoy an additional 1-5 days per month of low-algae conditions.

## CHANCES ARE, YOUR LAWN DOESN'T NEED PHOSPHORUS

Hundreds of soil tests have shown that there is almost three times more phosphorus in Dane County lawn soils than what is needed for a healthy lawn.

## DANE COUNTY TAKES IMPORTANT STEPS IN MAKING OUR LAKES CLEANER

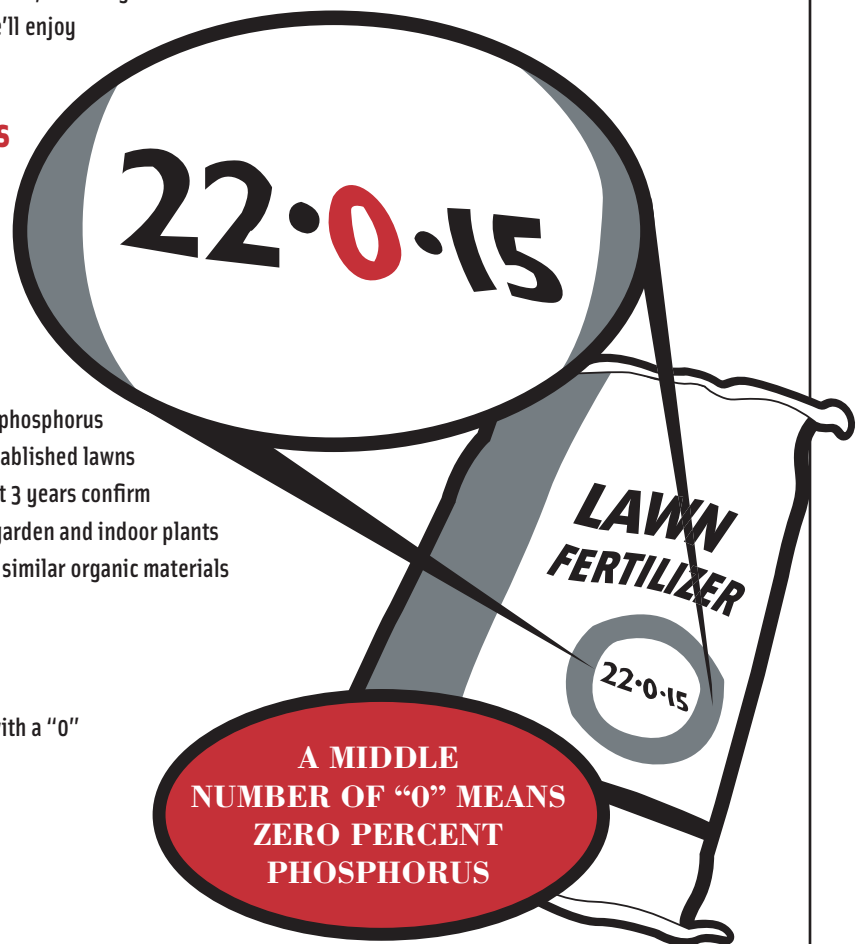
Beginning in January 2005, the use or sale of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus will not be permitted in Dane County. The ordinance exempts newly-established lawns in their first growing season, lawns where soil tests from within the past 3 years confirm that phosphorus is necessary, agricultural uses, fertilizer intended for garden and indoor plants as well as those applied to trees and shrubs, and yard waste compost or similar organic materials applied to improve the physical condition of the soil.

## BUY PHOSPHORUS FREE

Check the labels of the fertilizer you buy for your lawn. Look for a bag with a "0" as the middle number that means no phosphorus.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://olw-lwrd.countyofdane.com/Management/Pollutants>  
Dane County Watershed Management Coordinator: (608) 224-3764



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## INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS ON DANE COUNTY'S PHOSPHORUS FREE ORDINANCE

This information is posted in accordance with Chapter 30 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances, section 30.07 (3): "Effective May 1, 2004, displays of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus must be clearly marked and a sign containing the regulations set forth in this ordinance and the effects of phosphorus on Dane County's waters must be prominently displayed."