



Phosphorus-Free Fertilizers

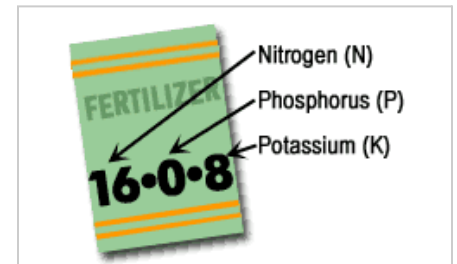
LLPOA Lake Committee - 2023

Why use Phosphorus-Free Fertilizers?

- Phosphorus is a common nutrient found in lawn fertilizer, and for most yards, phosphorus is often unnecessary.
- **Phosphorus is one of the most problematic pollutants in stormwater** - it wreaks havoc on aquatic ecosystems, particularly in streams and lakes.
- ***One pound of phosphorus can produce hundreds of pounds of algae!***
 - ***Phosphorus causes algae growth;***
 - ***Algae reduces dissolved oxygen & clarity;***
 - ***Decreased clarity decreases sunlight deeper in the lake;***
 - ***Decreased sunlight decreases aquatic plants; and***
 - ***Decreased aquatic plants decrease fish and animal populations.***
- **In July of 2010, Illinois passed a law that banned phosphorus in lawn fertilizers except for soils with a tested deficiency (415 ILCS 65/5a).** (Other states: Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, & Wisconsin.)

To Do - Fertilize Wisely!

- **Use Phosphorus-Free Fertilizers!**
 - N-P-K (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium)
 - The 2nd number is the Phosphorus compound.
 - **The Phosphorus number needs to be Zero (0)!**
 - Many brands of Phosphorus-free fertilizers are available at hardware and home center stores.
- **Test your soil before applying fertilizer.** Determine what fertilizer you really need.
- **Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer necessary.** More fertilizer is not necessarily better.
- **Apply fertilizer only once a year - early fall is best.**
- **Don't apply fertilizer before a rain event** because that reduces fertilizer absorption in your lawn, and increases runoff.
- **Don't apply fertilizer on Buffer Strips, Rain Gardens, or impermeable surfaces.**
- **Remove fallen trees from the lake.**
- **Keep yard waste away from the lake.** Yard waste that goes into the lake will decrease water quality by adding excess nutrients.
- **Use Compost as a Fertilizer Alternative!**



What Does Community Park Use?

- *Bull Creek in Community Park is the primary source of water flowing into Loch Lomond.*
- The **Mundelein Park & Recreation District (MPRD)** fertilizes Community Park with the exception of the ball fields.
 - **In 2023, MPRD fertilized only once a year in the fall, with 32-0-3 (no phosphorus) at a distribution rate of 0.75 pounds/1000 ft², a low rate.**
- The **Mundelein Baseball & Softball Association (MBSA)** contracts with Green Concepts to fertilize the ballfields on the eastern side of Community Park.
 - **In 2023, MBSA & Green Concepts fertilized twice, in the spring, and in August with 18-0-4 (no phosphorus).**

Information & Other Resources

- <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/3594/P-Free-Fertilizers>
- <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1597&ChapterID=36>