

## **Recommendations for Homeowners for controlling Phosphorus**

Phosphorus significantly increases the amount of algae and weed growth in lakes, streams and rivers. The most recommended control of phosphorus is thru watershed management, that each of us doing our part to limit phosphorus coming from our property.

Lawn fertilizer control.

Have soil tested at Cornell Co-op extension office 50 West High St. Ballston Spa

Use only phosphate free lawn fertilizer like 20-0-15

Follow rate of application recommendations

Sweep up fertilizer from non grassy areas like pavement

Avoid fertilizers with atrazine weedkillers that kill birds and fish

Keep fertilizer 25 ft away from creeks and the lake shoreline

Do not apply fertilizer on frozen ground

Do not apply fertilizer when HEAVY rain is expected

Best to apply fertilizer in cool months like mid Sept -Oct

In addition

Keep burn piles or ashes 50ft from the lake

Keep yard debris from entering the lake

Have septic tank pumped every 2-3 years

Follow septic system maintenance ideas ([Link](#))

Pick up pet litter and dispose of it

Use phosphate free detergents in the home, on the car and boat

Dispose of unused medications at the drug store

Dispose of unused household chemicals and paints at an approved Hazmat site

Lakeshore buffer strips of rooted plants filter phosphorus from entering the lake