



Summer Village of Silver Sands Statement on Fertilizer and Herbicide Use on Residential Property

All of us who own property on or near our lake are impacting it. There are many things we can do to decrease our negative impact on the lake. Blue-green algae thrives on Phosphorus. We can decrease the amount of these nutrients going into the lake in many ways by reducing the amount of nutrients produced (e.g. not using fertilizer) or by increasing the natural absorption of nutrients before they reach the lake. Plants with deep root systems (trees and shrubs) absorb these nutrients and decrease the amount going into the lake. This is especially important along the edges of the water (riparian zone).

If you must use fertilizer: Use the Right Source of fertilizer at the Right Rate, the Right Time and the Right Place

Right Source: Buy a fertilizer recommended for your lawn or garden with zero phosphates

Right Rate: Know the size of your lawn and only buy what you need. Apply at the application rate as recommended on the label or less as needed. Use a good quality fertilizer spreader.

Right Time: Apply in the correct season. Spring is the best time to fertilize. Do not apply if heavy rain is expected. Do not apply on frozen ground and do not apply within 20 ft of water bodies.

Right Place: Sweep on to the lawn any fertilizer that might land on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways. Never apply fertilizer near ponds, streams, rivers or lakes.

See Summer Village of Silver Sands policy [A-ENV-FER-1](#) (*Fertilizer & Herbicide Use on Residential Property*)