

# LAKE ERIE STARTS HERE!

Be Wise and Don't Fertilize our Great Lake



Local waterways are impacted when fertilizer application is conducted incorrectly.

**If** you fertilize your lawn, practice the 4 Rs of Fertilization:

1. **RIGHT TYPE** - Have your soil tested to determine fertilizer needs and choose a slow-release fertilizer.  
*Best Management Practice:* Use phosphate-free organic fertilizer.
2. **RIGHT RATE** - Soil test results will supply you with the appropriate fertilizer rate. Do not exceed the recommended rate and never apply more than 1.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.  
*Best Management Practice:* Use mulching blades on your mower and leave the grass clippings on the lawn.
3. **RIGHT TIME** - September is the best time to fertilize lawns when cool season grasses are actively growing.  
*Best Management Practice:* Never apply fertilizer when rain and wind are in the forecast.
4. **RIGHT PLACE** - Proper fertilization techniques save money and protect waterways and wildlife. Avoid fertilizing near streams, ditches, hard surfaces, and slopes.  
*Best Management Practice:* Incorporate native plantings near streams, ditches, and slopes to better intercept pollutants before they enter waterways.

**If** you rent property, please share this information with your property manager.