

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Division of Water**

**Bureau of Water Resource Management, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

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Joe Martens  
Commissioner

Dear Communicator:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Water is reaching out entities who communicate about lawn care for help in getting the word out about the fertilizer provisions in the 2010 Dishwasher Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law.

Through restrictions on fertilizers that contain phosphorus, the law will reduce the quantity of phosphorus entering the State's waters.

Beginning 1/1/12:

- Use of fertilizer containing phosphorus on non-agricultural lawns and turf is restricted to when a new lawn is being established or when a soil test indicates additional phosphorus is needed.
- Application of any fertilizer for non-farm use is prohibited between December 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Application of any fertilizer within 20 feet of a water body or on paved surfaces is restricted.
- Retailers must display fertilizer that contains phosphorus separately from phosphorus-free fertilizer and must post signs notifying customers of the terms of the law.

We are asking that, as appropriate, you include the attached article in your outreach newsletter. Or, if your organization does not publish a newsletter, perhaps you could help us get the word out in other ways.

Additional information about the new requirements is found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html>.

Thank you for your assistance. Please contact me at [rmcapows@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:rmcapows@gw.dec.state.ny.us) or 518-402-8112 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Capowski, P.E.  
Watershed Implementation Section