

**SET YOURSELF
PHOSPHORUS-FREE!**

Minnesota's Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizer Law *prohibits use of fertilizers containing phosphorus on lawns in the 7-county Twin Cities metro area, and in the rest of Minnesota starting Jan. 1, 2005.*

THE MIDDLE NUMBER ON YOUR FERTILIZER BAG SHOULD BE "0".

Exceptions to this law apply when establishing new lawns or when a soil test shows phosphorus is needed.

WHY IS PHOSPHORUS A PROBLEM?

More phosphorus means fewer fish. Too much phosphorus from fertilizer, leaves and grass clippings causes excess algae and weed growth in many Minnesota lakes and waterways, which, in turn, lowers oxygen levels and darkens the water. This can have a devastating effect on fish.

**WILL PHOSPHORUS-FREE FERTILIZER
KEEP MY LAWN HEALTHY?**

Yes. Minnesota soils are naturally high in phosphorus, so our lawns usually don't need extra. If you are in doubt, get a soil test. For soil test information, contact the University of Minnesota Soil Test Lab at www.extension.umn.edu and follow the "Yard and Garden Line" link, or call 612-625-3101.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY OLD PHOSPHORUS-CONTAINING LAWN FERTILIZER?

Dispose of fertilizer without weed killer in trash. With weed killer, a pesticide, take to a county household hazardous waste site. Ramsey County site: Bay West Inc., 5 Empire Dr., St. Paul.

- Dawn Dubats, Ramsey County Master Gardener

