BLUEWATER

Trial Lawn Care Program

Although the Bluewater covenants state that homeowners should use no fertilizers, it has been brought to our attention that some residents are disappointed with their lawn color. A trial lawn care program has been instituted in efforts to improve lawn color. By following the rules listed below, we can continue to offer lawn care while protecting the pristine water.

The fertilizer pictured above is available for purchase at Lanoha Nurseries.

1. Homeowners must use an approved fertilizer with ZERO phosphorus.

2. If you would prefer to use your own lawn care provider, you must submit a sample bag to assure no phosphorus before application.

3. A light fertilization can be applied once in May and once in early September.

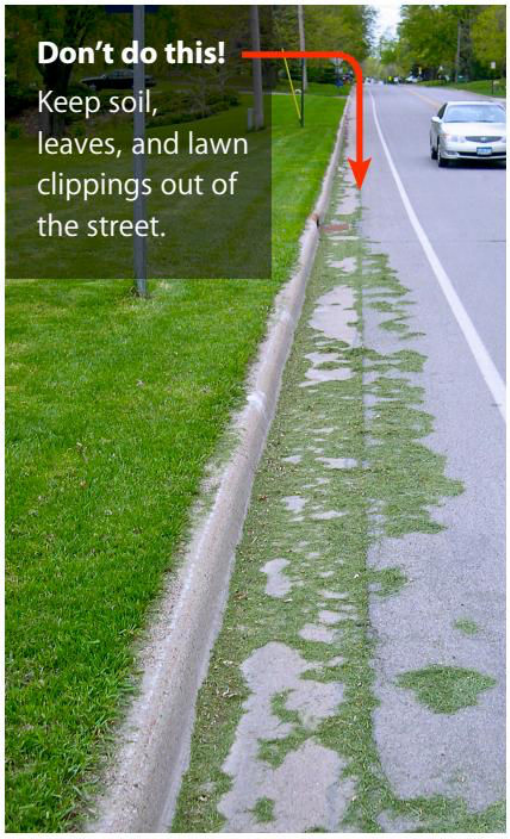
It is highly recommended that you use fescue as opposed to Kentucky Blue. Fescue requires much less fertilization and is more natural for settings like the lake.

Please remember that this is a trial program and that any algae blooms in the lake will suspend the program. Our biggest asset is the lake and anything that would damage it's quality will be managed with a high level of scrutiny.

Keeping the Lake Clean

Green and Murky Waters - Excess algae and weed growth is a major problem in many Nebraska lakes. One pound of phosphorus can result in hundreds of pounds of algae. Too much algae lowers oxygen levels and darkens the water.

More Phosphorus = Fewer Fish - Too much algae lowers oxygen levels and darker water. In severe cases, this can have a devastating effect on fish populations.



What's in your street is in your **lake**.

SWEEP IT UP Grass clippings, leaves, or fertilizer left on streets and sidewalks can be a major source of phosphorus pollution in lakes and rivers.

What Can I do to Protect Water Quality?

Fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, animal waste, and eroded soil are all sources of phosphorus. When they are swept or washed into the street or nearest storm drain, they end up in your local lake or river. You can do your part to protect water quality by doing the following:

- Buy phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer.
- Apply fertilizer at the recommended rate. Late summer is the best time. Don't fertilize before a storm. Never apply to frozen ground.
- Keep soil, leaves, and lawn clippings out of the street.
- Mow higher. Keeping your grass length to 2½ - 3 inches is healthier for your lawn.
- Pick up pet waste promptly. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients that cause excess algae and weed growth in lakes and rivers.
- Control soil erosion around your house. When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulch.

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Proper mowing can produce healthier turf that can withstand more stress and pest pressure. Mow high and regularly. Raising the mowing height will enhance the quality and health of your lawn. A height of 2.5 to 3.5 inches is a general recommendation for most turf species. For best results, remove only one-third of the leaf blade at each mowing.

Sharp mower blades provide a better cut and a healthier turf stand. Dull blades tear leaf blades and provide more sites for disease infection.
Returning clippings to the turf can reduce the total need for fertilizer.
Routine clipping removal from the lawn will reduce soil phosphorus levels over time. Take a soil test to monitor nutrient levels.
Do not allow clippings to reach the water! This is like throwing fertilizer into the water and must be as diligently avoided.
If clippings are composted on the property, make sure the enriched water that leaches from the pile cannot reach surface water.
Do not refuel the mower near the water. An accidental spill could cause considerable impact.
Clean Up and Avoid the Water

*** Any fertilizer release not a hard surface, such as a sidewalk or driveway, must be cleaned up promptly.**

*** Maintain at least a 15' application buffer from surface water (lake, river, stream).**

*** If a continuous natural vegetative buffer separates the turf and surface water, then maintain at least a 10' buffer from the water.**

Caring For Sandy Soil

Don't over-water your sandy soil-you'll increase the risk of nitrogen loss to groundwater. Daily watering during cool, moist periods will also increase leaching potential. Watering techniques that meet a grass plant's needs during any particular climate condition are more effective. To minimize nitrogen leaching, water just enough to compensate for moisture removed by plant uptake and evaporation. Sloped areas may require more frequent but smaller amounts of water per application, since they're vulnerable to runoff before ample water has infiltrated the soil.

Providing 1/4 to 1/2 inch of water immediately after applying a quick-release nitrogen source will help move the nitrogen into the surface soil, where it can be reached by grass plants. This technique also provides some protection from runoff and volatilization back to the atmosphere. Leave grass clippings on your lawn-as they decompose, they'll recycle nutrients. They should not be blown or raked into street gutters or onto sidewalks and driveways, where they can be carried in runoff to surface water. Nutrients released in water through decomposition may cause undesirable algae and vegetative growth.

**** If you apply nitrogen to sandy soil, reduce the application rate to 1/4 to 1/2 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to minimize loss of nitrogen.**