

# Top 10 Urban Nutrient Management Practices to Protect Water Quality, Use Fertilizer Sparingly, and Potentially Save \$

**1** Keep fertilizer and grass clippings off paved surfaces



**2** Retain clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn—these are natural fertilizers and can help your lawn stay healthy



**3** Avoid fertilizer applications when grass growth slows (below 50°F). NY prohibits application of any lawn fertilizer December 1 - April 1



**4** Do not apply fertilizer within 20 feet of a water feature



**5** Fertilizer applications should not be made during intense summer heat when fertilizer can burn the lawn



**7** Set mower height at 3.5 inches or taller—grass at this height is healthier and more drought resistant



**6** Fertilizer (of any kind) is not necessary if grass has desirable function, growth and quality



**8** Avoid non-nitrogen fertilizer unless a soil test indicates a deficiency



**9** Use slow-release N fertilizer, especially on sandy soils, to limit runoff



**10** If more assistance is needed, work with a professional to develop an UNMP based on a soil test analysis

N = nitrogen • P = phosphorus  
N and P are harmful when washed into waterbodies



For more information, visit <https://www.u-s-c.org/urbannutrientmanagement>  
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