



Hidden Harbour Lawn and Fertilizer Guidelines

Maintaining Waterfront Lawns while Preserving the Water Quality of the Lake

Fertilizer Guidelines

- Minimize the use of fertilizer on your lawn. Or better yet, skip the fertilizer altogether! Tell your lawn care provider you want a lake friendly program.
- Do not fertilize within 10 feet of lake and/or retaining walls.
- Use ZERO phosphorous fertilizer.
- Use the minimum amount of nitrogen. No more than 1 pound per 1,000 square feet of nitrogen per application and no more than 3 lbs of nitrogen/year.
- Use slow release fertilizers.
- Don't apply fertilizer in the spring until 3 weeks after lawn green-up and apply no later than October 15th. Avoid mid-summer fertilizing.
- Keep fertilizers off any concrete or asphalt surfaces. Sweep or blow fertilizers back into the lawn after application.
- Cover all drains during fertilizer application. Many of these drains go directly into the lake. If drains are not covered, a buffer of 10 feet should be maintained from all fertilizer.

Mowing Tips

- Maintain turf at 3 to 3.5 inches. A higher lawn is a healthier lawn. Keep your mower blades sharp.
- Mulch. Returning clippings to the turf can reduce the total need for fertilizer.
- DO NOT allow clippings to reach the water. This is like throwing fertilizer in the water and must be diligently avoided.
- Blow or sweep all lawn waste and grass clippings away from the lake and back into the lawn.

Irrigation Tips

- The first rain or irrigation after fertilizer is applied is the most critical. Use irrigation system to lightly water in fertilizer rather than waiting for a potentially heavy rain that could lead to run-off. "Smart" irrigation systems can be programmed to slowly soak in fertilizer.
- Use "smart" irrigation controller or rain sensor to ensure irrigation system doesn't run during periods of rain, causing excessive run-off.