

# Keep your lawn green. Keep our water clean.

Protect our community.



Whether you are a landscaper or you hire landscapers for your business, every property can impact the health of local waters — especially during spring cleanup, lawn prep, plantings, and property maintenance. Proper landscaping management helps protect New Hampshire's waters and keeps landscaping operations in compliance with local and state stormwater regulations. Do your part to protect our community: **Keep your lawn green. Keep our water clean.**

## KEY POINTS FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE'S TURF FERTILIZER LAW:

- Use zero phosphorus or low phosphorus fertilizer on established lawns only.
- Follow nitrogen limits for retail fertilizer, including an annual maximum of total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
- Do not apply fertilizer between December 15 and March 1, and do not apply to frozen or snow-covered ground.
- Fertilizer cannot be applied within 25 feet of a water body, storm drain, or wetland. Fertilizer restrictions apply between 25-250 feet from a water body.
- Never apply fertilizers to impervious surfaces like sidewalks, driveways, streets, or patios.
- Visit [New Hampshire's Turf Fertilizer Law - What You Should Know](#) fact sheet webpage for more information.

## How to Spot a Quality Landscaper for Spring:

- **Spring clean-up comes first.** During spring operations, commercial landscapers often handle grass clippings, de-thatching debris, leftover leaves, branches, and soil from winter cleanup. None of these materials should be blown, swept, or dumped into streets, catch basins, or storm drains. Transport and dispose of landscape debris at approved composting or yard-waste facilities when it cannot be managed on site.
- **Is there science behind it?** A quality landscaper knows the science of a property's lawn through soil testing and proper training. This helps characterize the soil and determine whether things like aeration, pH adjustments, fertilizer, and pest control are needed. Staff are trained and versed on the New Hampshire Turf Fertilizer Law (RSA: 431).
- **Environmentally conscious.** Slow-release, phosphorus free fertilizers help keep New Hampshire's streams, lakes, and rivers healthy, and it's the law. Quality landscapers may also use other organic methods to develop lush, stress-resilient, vibrant lawns such as compost, manure, or natural nutrient-dense fertilizer or grass clippings.
- **Grass awareness.** Did you know grass needs time to develop deep roots? Once grass begins growing in the spring, it's recommended to wait for the first mow until the grass is at least 3 inches high. This ensures roots are deep and developed enough to thrive. This means the first mow might not be until May! Once grass is in the mowing season it should be maintained at about 3 inches to ensure proper shading for soil health and to help inhibit weeds from taking root.
- **Has anything been left behind?** Fertilizers, grass clippings, and other debris should always be cleaned up before a landscaper leaves a property. Adjacent streets and driveways should be blown or swept to prevent debris and excess nutrients from entering the community's stormwater system or nearby waterbodies.



As part of the USEPA's 2017 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in New Hampshire, the Town of Durham is required to educate residents and businesses on pollution prevention. This fact sheet is intended to fulfill permit requirements.

Visit the [UNH Cooperative Extension Webpage](#) for more information