

# Guidelines for Landscape Fertilizer Use on Nantucket Island





Produced by the  
**Nantucket Land Council**  
and the **Town of Nantucket**  
**Natural Resources**  
**Department**

## INTRODUCTION

*On January 1, 2013, a Town of Nantucket Board of Health regulation went into effect to control the content and application of fertilizer containing phosphorus and nitrogen. The purpose of this regulation is to improve and restore the quality of Nantucket's water resources. It provides for a reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus into Nantucket's waters and wetlands through an organized educational program, licensure and regulation of practices.*

*This pamphlet has been prepared by the Town of Nantucket in cooperation with the nonprofit Nantucket Land Council to provide basic information about fertilizer use guidelines for landscaping professionals and property owners on the island. Coming together to understand and apply best management practices in landscaping and fertilizing, we can all make a difference in the future of our island's health and well-being while still creating and maintaining attractive lawns and gardens.*

## NANTUCKET BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The "Best Management Practices for Landscape Fertilizer Use on Nantucket" document is an integral part of the new regulation. It was developed over a two year period from 2010-2012 by a group known as the Article 68 Work Group, comprised of a broad group of stakeholders representing diverse interests and appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The recommendations and guidelines presented in the document reflect the experience and knowledge of Nantucket landscape professionals and have been peer reviewed by soil and turf scientists and educators.

*Cover photo by Van Lieu Photography*

## NANTUCKET FERTILIZER APPLICATION STANDARDS

*The new regulation includes the following compliance standards for non-commercial fertilizer applicators (property owners):*

- Applicators shall not apply fertilizer immediately before or during heavy rainfall.
- Applicators shall not apply fertilizer between October 16th and the following April 14th.
- An Applicator shall not apply more than 0.25 lb per 1000 sq. ft. of fast-release nitrogen fertilizer in any one application.
- An Applicator shall not apply fertilizer that contains phosphorus, unless a soil test indicates a phosphorus deficiency and it is applied in conformance with the Nantucket Best Management Practices.
- Applications of compost, which contain phosphorus, may only be applied in conformance with the Nantucket Best Management Practices.
- A single application of nitrogen for turf shall not exceed 0.5 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet and the annual rate shall not exceed 3.0 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet.
- A single application for trees, shrubs, herbs and other ornamental plantings shall not exceed 0.5 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet. The annual rate shall not exceed 2.0 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet.
- If applying fertilizer, applications of nitrogen shall be done at intervals of no less than two weeks until the annual maximum is reached.
- All applications of fertilizer by a Commercial Applicator (landscaper) shall be in accordance with the Nantucket Best Management Practices, as amended, at the time of the application.

## MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO YOU

Copies of the 65-page “Best Management Practices for Landscape Fertilizer Use on Nantucket” in English were mailed out by the Natural Resources Department to the island’s landscaping community earlier this year.

A free copy of the documents in its entirety is available in either English or Spanish from the Nantucket Land Council at **(508) 228-2818** or **nlc@nantucketlandcouncil.org** or from the Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department at **508-228-7230** or **jcarlson@nantucket-ma.gov**.

The document in digital format can also be found on the Nantucket Land Council website at [www.nantucketlandcouncil.org](http://www.nantucketlandcouncil.org). Questions regarding the new regulation can be addressed to either the Nantucket Land Council or the Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department.

