

FERTILIZER USE ON NANTUCKET ISLAND

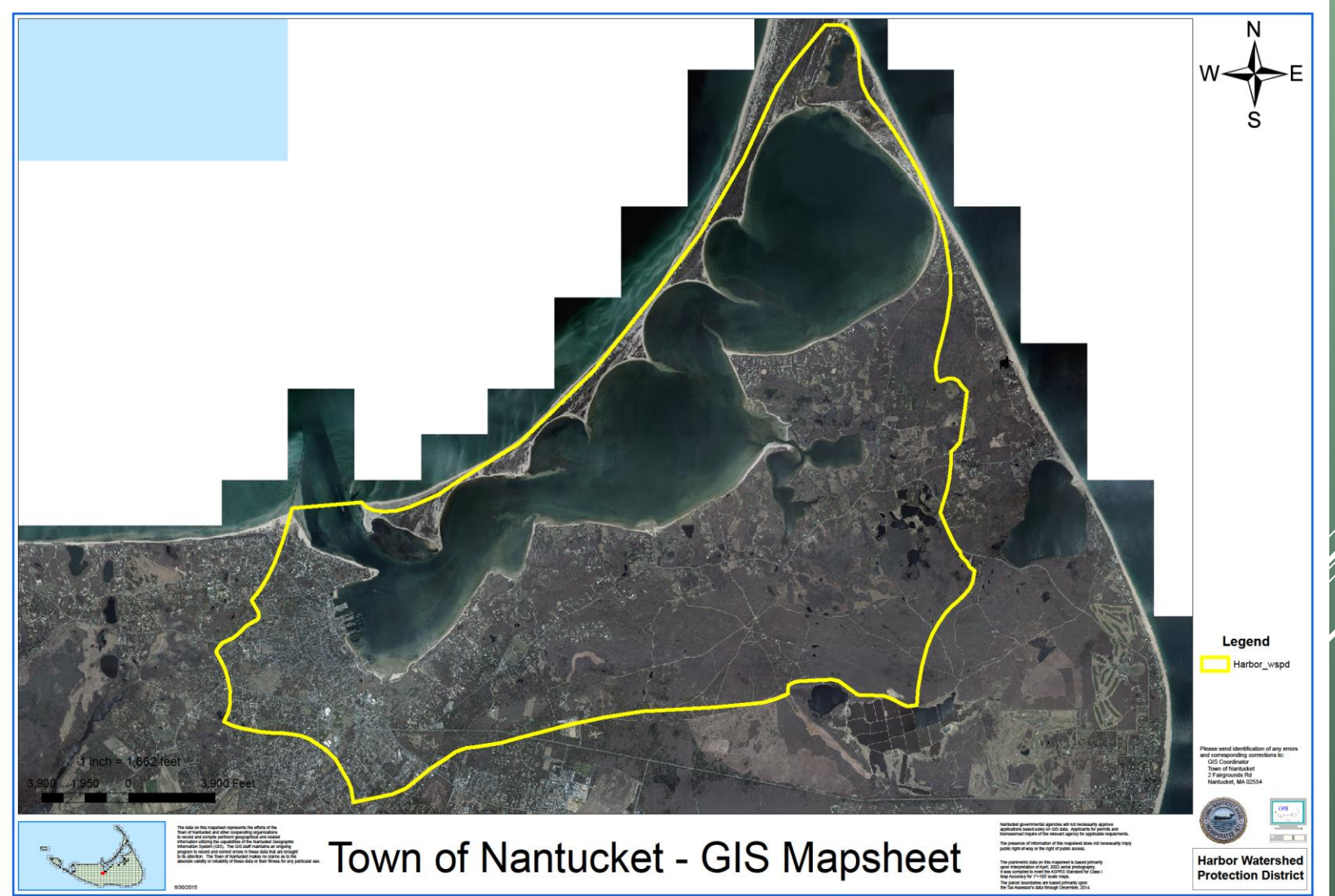


Cormac Collier

Executive Director, Nantucket Land Council



Nantucket Harbor Watershed



1998



Image U.S. Geological Survey

Google Earth

2017



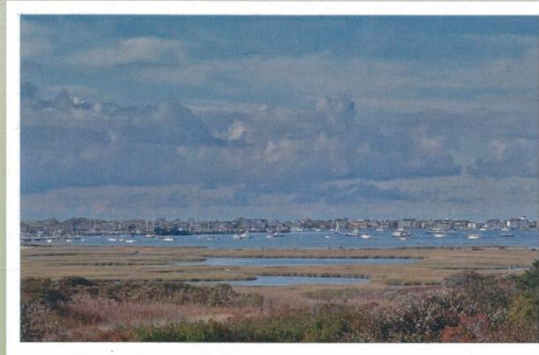
- ▶ Limits the type, timing, and amounts of fertilizer
- ▶ Mandates a defined amount of slow release (water insoluble) nitrogen per application
- ▶ No phosphorus allowed unless a soil test shows a deficiency
- ▶ Utilizes BMPs

BOARD OF HEALTH FERTILIZER REGULATIONS



Best Management Practices for Landscape Fertilizer
Use on Nantucket Island

Prepared by the Article 68 Work Group
2010-2012



**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LANDSCAPE
FERTILIZER USE ON NANTUCKET ISLAND**



- ▶ Town of Nantucket Personnel
- ▶ Landscaping & Golf Industries
- ▶ Non Profits
- ▶ Private Citizens

FERTILIZER ADVISORY COMMITTEE



- ▶ Health & Natural Resources Departments
- ▶ Resources Available
- ▶ Limitations & Goals

ENFORCEMENT

▶ Classes & Workshops

▶ Social Media
PSAs on Radio & at
Dreamland Theater

▶ Education & Outreach
Materials



EDUCATION

**HOMESOWNER SEPTIC SYSTEM AND FERTILIZER GUIDELINES:
HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP NANTUCKET HARBORS AND PONDS CLEAN**

Septic Systems and fertilizers leach nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) into the soil and eventually into our harbors and ponds where the balance of nature can be upset for decades to come. This brief overview describes how you can help protect the waters of Nantucket now and for the future.

SEPTIC SYSTEM GUIDELINES

Why maintain your septic system?
A septic system is designed to safely dispose of the solid and liquid human waste. These are from your bathroom, kitchen, and your septic system.

1. Septic system and septic lines are expensive to repair and replace.
2. Malfunction can cause health, community and environmental issues, depending on septic system type.
3. The Nantucket Regional Planning Board requires all septic systems on public water.

Failure and leaks can impact the ecology and natural resources. Nantucket property owners should be responsible to make sure their septic system is maintained properly, their own septic system.

Sandy soils leach wastewater into our harbors and ponds
Septic systems in more locations and some villages from your town. Nantucket's sandy soil is porous, so it allows water to seep into the ground. In the more porous soil, the water quickly carries away any nutrients in the soil. In Nantucket, this is a problem because the water carries away any nutrients in the soil. This is why it is important to have a septic system that is designed to handle sandy soil. The best way to do this is to have a septic system that is designed to handle sandy soil. The best way to do this is to have a septic system that is designed to handle sandy soil.

Keep your septic system running at optimum efficiency by:

- Pumping your system every two years
- Having it inspected every five years. This is a courtesy of the system.

FERTILIZER GUIDELINES

Why limit fertilizer use?
Fertilizers are made up of organic and inorganic materials that are added to soil to supply nutrients required for plant growth. The inorganic materials are synthetic fertilizers. They are used to stimulate plant growth and to replace nutrients used by the plant. Synthetic fertilizers are made up of synthetic materials that are added to soil to stimulate plant growth. Synthetic fertilizers are made up of synthetic materials that are added to soil to stimulate plant growth.

What do I need to know?
The Nantucket Regional Planning Board requires all septic systems to be installed and maintained properly. This is to ensure that the septic system is working properly and that the water is being treated properly. This is to ensure that the septic system is working properly and that the water is being treated properly.

- Have your soil tested to determine what nutrients are available.
- Select the proper blend of nutrients for your property. Use slow release fertilizers.
- Do not over-fertilize. Apply smaller amounts with higher frequency.
- Do not over-fertilize. Only apply enough water to compensate for the moisture provided by the rain.
- Create a buffer zone of native plants around water bodies and do not mow these areas.

Why talk with your landscaper?
Your landscaper has more knowledge about the soil conditions in your yard. This is why it is important to talk to your landscaper about the health of your soil and the best way to maintain it. This is why it is important to talk to your landscaper about the health of your soil and the best way to maintain it.

Brochure is a courtesy of the Nantucket Regional Planning Board, The Nantucket Land Conservation Society, and the Nantucket Regional Planning Board. © 2015

- ▶ Are they certified by the Town of Nantucket?
- ▶ Are they following the Town of Nantucket's Best Management Practices for Fertilizer Application?
- ▶ Are they testing your soil to see what nutrients are needed?
- ▶ Can they use less fertilizer?
- ▶ You can ask them to perform a fertilizer test and explain the results to you.
- ▶ Consider planting native plants back into your lawns and gardens.

TALK TO YOUR LANDSCAPER!!!

APPROPRIATE PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

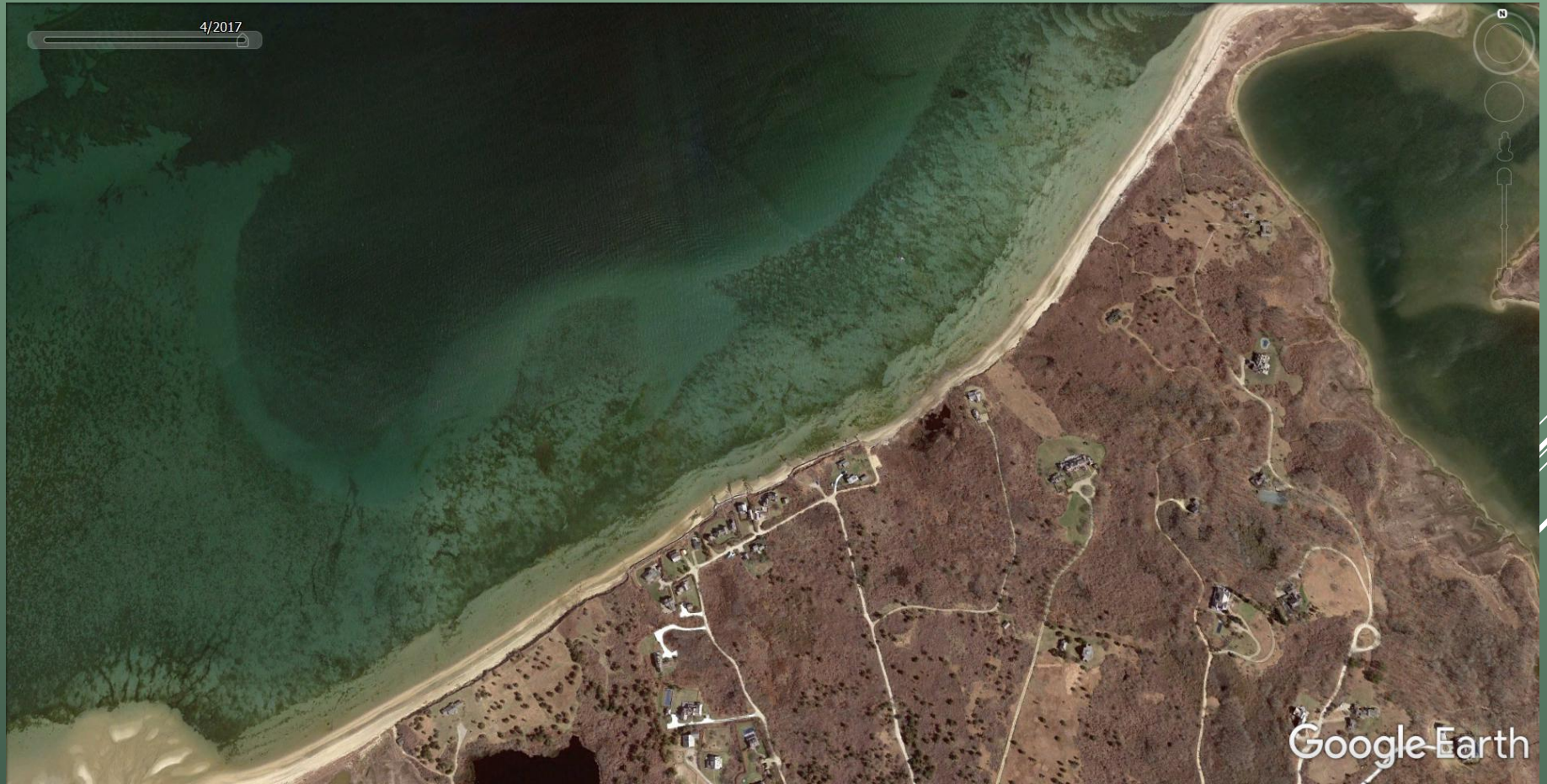
- ▶ Vendor Participation
- ▶ Mass State Law prevents municipalities from prohibiting the sale of certain fertilizer products.



2001



2017





QUESTIONS?

