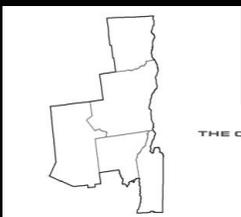


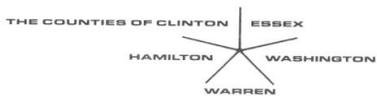
WHEN YOU'RE FERTILIZING THE LAWN, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST FERTILIZING THE LAWN.



You fertilize the lawn. Then it rains. The rain washes the fertilizer along the curb, into the storm drain, and directly into our lakes and streams. This causes algae to grow, which uses up oxygen that fish need to survive. So if you fertilize, please follow directions and use sparingly.



The Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board would like to thank the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.



For more information contact us at
(518) 668-5773 or lclgrpb@verizon.net.

Clean Water Is Important To All Of Us!

It's up to all of us to protect and maintain the health of our watersheds.

In recent years "point" sources of water pollution like industrial factory wastes have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from "non-point" sources like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and lawns, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why Do We Need Clean Water?

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health, environment, and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water and we all have a role in getting and keeping our lakes and streams clean.

What's The Problem With Fertilizer?

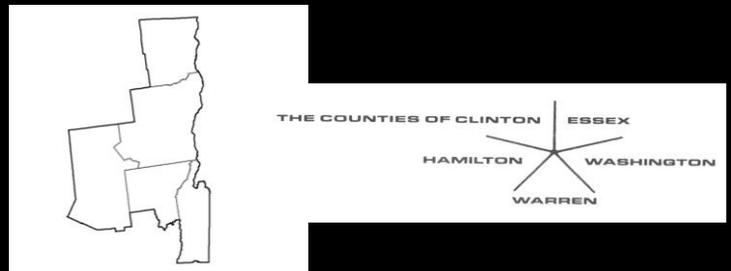
Fertilizer isn't a problem if it's used carefully. If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and then flow untreated into lakes and streams. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in lakes and streams makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decays, it use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

Clean Water Tips:

How can you fertilize and help keep our waters clean?

- ◆ Use fertilizers sparingly. Many plants do not need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you might think.
- ◆ Don't fertilize before a rain storm.
- ◆ Consider using organic fertilizers; they release nutrients more slowly.
- ◆ Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. Commercial compost and soil amendments may be available from your solid waste or wastewater utility as well as your local garden store.

For more information on fertilizing alternatives and composting, call your County Extension's Master Gardeners program or call the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board at (518) 668-5773.



This information is brought to you by the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board. Established in 1967 the board serves five counties in upstate New York with economic and environmental assistance.