

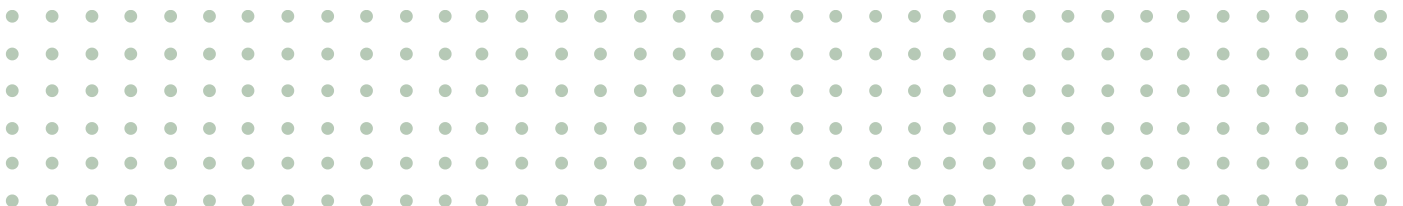
# RUNOFF ROUNDUP

June 2022



Too much fertilizer, especially phosphorus, can turn lakes and rivers green by encouraging the growth of algae. Algae takes up the air that fish need to breathe in the water, and can give off chemicals that taste bad and are bad for people's skin. Keep chemicals out of our lakes and rivers by following these tips:

- Don't apply fertilizer when it's raining or rain is in the forecast.
- Sweep or blow fertilizer that is on streets, driveways, and sidewalks back onto your yard or dispose of it properly.
- Don't apply fertilizer within 25 feet of creeks, streams, and ponds.
- Don't blow or dump grass clippings, leaves, or any yard waste into streets, storm drains or waterways.
- Test your soil before applying any fertilizer containing phosphorus.



# UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS ON YOUR FERTILIZER

All fertilizer labels have three numbers displayed. These numbers represent the nutrients nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

**Nitrogen (N)**  
Encourages above ground growth.

**Phosphorus (P)**  
Encourages fruit and flower production and improves root health.

**Potassium (K)**  
Improves overall plant health.



Using too much fertilizer can cause excess growth of algae when carried by runoff into water bodies. This, in turn, can cause algae blooms which can degrade water quality, produce toxins and result in taste and odor problems in our drinking water.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Most soils in Norman already have sufficient phosphorus levels for a healthy lawn. Conducting a soil test will help you determine how much, if any, fertilizer you need to apply to your lawn. This can help you save money by applying only what you need and it helps keep our waters clean!

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