



Water Quality: What YOU can do to help Silver Lake. **Tips from the Silver Lake Association's Water Quality Committee**

Tip Two: DON'T USE FERTILIZERS WITH PHOSPHORUS

Phosphorus impacts our water. Phosphorus enters the environment in many ways. Wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), defective septic systems, agricultural runoff, fertilizer, flares, manure, decomposing leaves, and urban/suburban runoff all contribute phosphorus to the environment. Phosphorus going into New York State's water has been linked to: reductions in oxygen in waterbodies necessary for fish to breathe; algae that turn water bodies green; and algae and algae by-products that degrade drinking water.

Lawn fertilizer can have unnecessary phosphorus. Fertilizers contain phosphorus to help spur plant growth. However, in many areas of the State sufficient phosphorus to foster lawn growth is naturally occurring or exists due to many years of over fertilization. Phosphorus from lawn fertilizer has the potential to significantly affect New York State's water resources.

What YOU Can Do to Limit Phosphorus Inputs to Lake

Don't Pour Chemicals Down the Drain.

Pesticides, disinfectants, acids, medicines, paint thinner, etc. harm septic system bacteria and can contaminate groundwater.

Manage Lawn and Garden Fertilizer Use.

Most fertilizers contain phosphorus. To help our lake, use fertilizers that have "0" listed in the second number of the label (1st # is Nitrogen, 2nd # is Phosphorus, 3rd # is Potassium). Have your soil tested to determine exactly how much fertilizer your lawn needs. Use a mulching lawnmower; grass clippings recycle nutrients to your lawn. Avoid fertilizer applications just before a heavy rain. Use slow-release fertilizers. Do not rinse spilled fertilizer off paved surfaces, but sweep excess up or onto lawn. Use native and adapted plants with lower fertilizer needs. NYS laws prohibit the use of fertilizers with phosphorus and the use of fertilizer near waterways. Please do your research before applying any fertilizer on your lake property.



Plant a Buffer Strip of Plants or Shrubs.

A greenbelt between your lawn and lake will absorb excess phosphorus before it can enter the lake.

Rake and Remove Leaves from Lakeside Property.

Leaves contain phosphorus. Do not dispose of them in the lake.

Use No-Phosphate Detergents (check labels).

Most liquid laundry detergents do not contain phosphorus, but some powdered laundry and dishwasher detergents still do.

Support Maintaining Wetlands

Wetland areas help to filter nutrients and many other pollutants.

Correct Soil Erosion Problems Immediately!