Don't apply fertilizer if there is a rain storm predicted. You might lose the effectiveness of what you've used and some fertilizer could run off into the storm drain.

8. Mulch Matters

Use a mulching mower. It will cut the grass into tiny pieces which you can leave on the lawn. Those clippings contain nitrogen, which will help fertilize the soil for you.

9. Use Only What You Need.

Don't use a weed-and-feed or other multi-purpose product unless you have widespread problems in your yard. Ask Cornell Cooperative Extension or your local garden center for specific guidance about weeds and insects.

10. Feed the Grass when it's Hungry.

To get the most impact in the Hudson Valley, fertilize in mid- to late-September, late October and, when necessary, mid-May. Don't fertilize in the summer when the grass is dormant.

Attach your business card or company information here

Cornell Cooperative Extension Horticulture Diagnostic Lab Hotline

Monday — Friday
9:00 a.m. — 12:00

- Plant Pathology
- Insect Identification
- Soil pH Testing
- Control Recommendations for Professionals and Homeowners
- Plant Care Information

It's no miracle . . . **It's Turf Love.**

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Northeastern IPM Center

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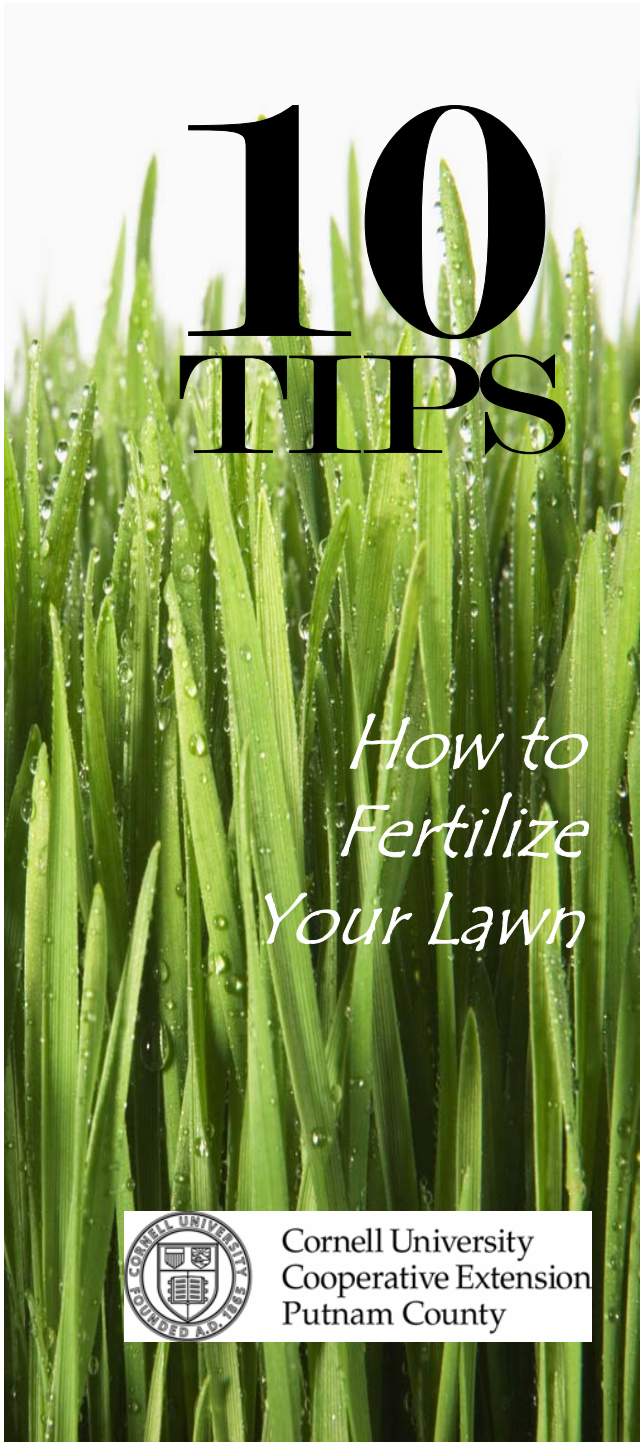


10 TIPS

How to Fertilize Your Lawn

Cornell University Cooperative Extension Putnam County

How to Fertilize Your Lawn

Healthy, green, dense lawns will grow in most soils in the Hudson Valley without any added nutrients except nitrogen, which helps grass green up. How do you know if your soil is the exception? Have a soil nutrient analysis done. Your garden center or landscaper can do a soil test, or you can send your soil to an independent lab, like the one at Cornell University, for a small fee. Then commit to a fertilizing schedule that delivers only the nutrients your soil needs, not more. You'll save money and time and you'll be protecting the environment from wasted fertilizer.

Trees, shrubs and flowers contribute to appearance of your landscape. Save leaves, too, to add to your compost pile.

1. Get an "A" in Soil Testing

Have your soil tested for pH and nutrients. This will help determine which fertilizers and supplements may be needed, how much and when to apply. After five years of research in Putnam County, Cornell Cooperative Extension found virtually no need for phosphorous in soil. Since over-applied or misapplied phosphorous can cause damage to surface water, don't use it if it's not needed. Ask for a zero-phosphorous fertilizer at your garden center or from your landscaper.

2. How many square feet?

Bags of fertilizer come in different sizes, designed to cover a certain amount of lawn, but most homeowners don't know how many square feet of lawn they have. Because big bags are more cost-efficient, many people buy the biggest bag of fertilizer in the store. This is a false economy. Whether you choose organic or synthetic fertilizer, buy only what you need.

3. Slow It Down

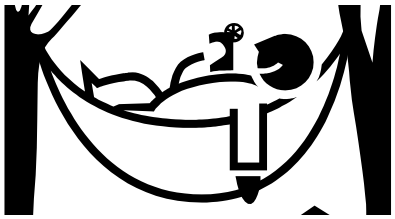
Select lawn-specific fertilizers that have slow-release Nitrogen to prevent burning the lawn and to reduce runoff and leaching of nutrients into groundwater.

4. Be Well-Read

Read and follow all label directions when applying fertilizer.

5. Chill Out

Grass will not use fertilizer when it is not actively growing. To prevent runoff pollution of lakes and streams, never apply fertilizers to frozen ground, or during July and August, when turfgrass is almost completely dormant.



6. Spread It Out

Be sure your spreader is adjusted properly. Read and follow the spreader setting instructions on the fertilizer label so that your spreader applies the correct amount of fertilizer. Incorrect application that results in spilling fertilizer onto driveways and other paved surfaces means fertilizer can be washed down storm sewers.

7. Recycle Your Lawn

Mow when the grass is four and one-half inches high, and cut only to three inches. Leave the clippings on your lawn to decompose. "Grass-cycling" is a great source of nitrogen and saves water and fertilizer.