

YORK TOWNSHIP  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## LAWN FERTILIZERS, HERBICIDES, & PESTICIDES

If farmers applied chemicals to their fields at the times and rates that many homeowners apply chemicals to their lawns, they would be bankrupt.

Chemicals applied at the wrong times or at excessive rates are washed off lawns by rain storms, are carried by storm flows along streets and through stormwater pipes, are discharged into streams, and find their way into the Chesapeake Bay. In the Bay fertilizers promote algae growth, depleting oxygen, and killing fish, crabs, and other aquatic life.



You pay at least 5 times for misapplied chemicals.

- They are washed away without improving your lawn.
- They reduce the number and size of desirable Bay recreational areas where your family can fish, crab, swim, and boat.
- They increase the cost of Bay fish, crabs, and other foods by suppressing their populations.
- They increase your taxes for programs to clean up the Bay.
- They hurt the regional economy by destroying jobs that rely on recreation, fishing, and crabbing.

You can help yourself and all of us.

- Read and follow the product label to determine the best times to apply any chemical to your lawn.
- Use lawn test kits available through the Penn State Extension of York County (717-840-7408) to determine the best fertilizer application rates for your lawn.

You can have a great lawn, a thicker wallet, great Bay vacations, great blue crab dinners, and the satisfaction of being part of the solution.