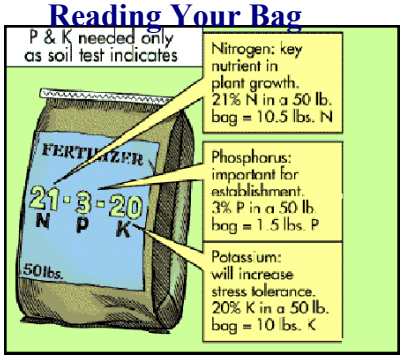
NANTUCKET
MASSACHUSETTS

## Why follow Best Management Practice? (BMP)

Best Management Practice provides information and promotes protection of the ecosystem, specifically aquatic resources, while applying fertilizer. BMP includes site planning guidelines based on scientific research. Along with what components should make up your fertilizer. Practices listed in BMP decrease fertilizer runoff by avoiding the improper application of fertilizers as well as their over application.




# Is your fertilizer being applied properly?

**The fate of Nantucket's harbors depends on it**

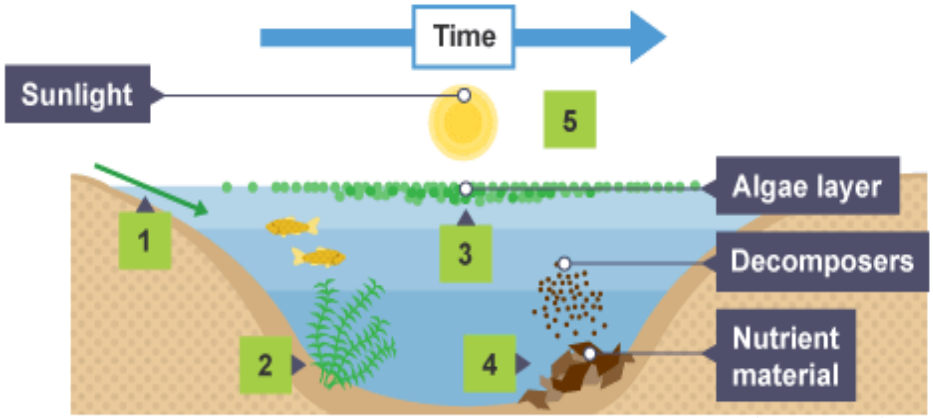



Photo source: Bbc.co.uk

1. Nutrient load up: excessive nutrients from fertilizers (nitrogen and phosphorus) are flushed from the land into rivers or lakes by rainwater.

2. Plants flourish: these pollutants cause aquatic plant growth of algae, duckweed and other plants.

3. Algae blooms, oxygen is depleted: algae blooms prevent sunlight from reaching other plants. The plants die and oxygen in the water is depleted

4. Decomposition further depletes oxygen: dead plants are broken down by bacteria decomposers, using up even more oxygen in the water

5. Death of the ecosystem: oxygen levels reach a point where no life is possible.


For more information, please contact the Nantucket Health Department.

(508)-228-7200
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Nantucket-ma.gov
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# What to look for when hiring a landscaper

- Make sure your landscaper has an up to date commercial application license [ see below for example ]

  -check our website for licensed landscapers

- Plant a native vegetative buffer between your property and any water body
- Inquire about the type of fertilizer being used and if it is compliant with best management practices
- Ask your landscaper to see a soil test for your property and to see the fertilizer plan before any application begins
- Even organic compost has high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, please have it tested before use to make sure It meets BMP guidelines
- Opt for native vegetation


## Our Harbors need protecting!

Algal blooms in Nantucket's harbors have lead to the severe decline of eelgrass, which serves as the home to oysters and scallops. Eelgrass populations have decreased by about 34% since 1995 according to the Nantucket Natural Resource Department. Nantucket's Bay Scallop and Oyster populations are threatened to decline even further if declining water quality due to nutrient loading continues.

This is why we need your help to make sure your fertilizer is being properly applied so that we can decrease the amount of nutrients entering our waters, and hopefully restore these vital populations.