Over-fertilized/overwatered lawns is a significant source of excess nutrients in waterbodies. If applying lawn fertilizer in Rockland County you must obey the Lawn Fertilizer Regulation Act of 2009.

Under the Act, no person shall apply any lawn fertilizer:
• Between December 1st and April 1st.
• To any Impervious surface (parking lots, roadways, sidewalks).
• To any lawn or turf within 50 feet of any surface water. This does not apply where a continuous, 10 foot minimum natural vegetative buffer separates the lawn or turf area and the surface water.
• Containing Phosphorus or such compounds (phosphate), except as provided in the Exemptions (below).

Exemptions:
• Turf or Lawn areas soil tested that need for additional phosphorus. The amount applied shall not exceed the amount and rate recommended from the soil test. See back on where to get a soil test.
• Agricultural uses, applications to trees, shrubs, vegetable and flower gardens.

Buying/Selling Fertilizer:
• No one shall display for sale lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus.
• Signs must be posted advising customers that phosphorus fertilizers are available upon request.
• Sellers are required to post a sign regarding the Act and the effect of Nitrogen and Phosphorus on Water Quality in Rockland County.

Educational Requirements:
• Every person who offers or provides lawn or turf services, in operation of a home improvement business, shall complete a turf management course approved by the Department of Consumer Protection (provided through Cornell Cooperative Extension, Rockland County) every two years. See our Fertilizer Law Course, held monthly.
Where does Nutrient Pollution come from?

Water-wise Landscaping will soak up Nutrient Pollution!

A drought-tolerant landscape will also use less water, fertilizer, and be less maintenance once established.

Cornell’s Fact-Sheets for Water-Wise Landscaping, Rain Gardening, Xeriscaping, Fertilizing, etc:
http://rocklandcce.org/fact-sheets

EPA Water-Smart Landscapes:
https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/landscaping_tips.html

Learn to Compost/Mulch Fall Leaves:

Leave it on the Lawn (Grass Clippings):
http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8816.html

Composting Instructions & Lawn Guidance:
http://rocklandcce.org/gardening/compost-resources

Look for the Zero:

USEPA Nutrient Pollution:
https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution

Hazardous Algae Blooms:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html

Educational Resources:

Rockland County Fertilizer Law:
http://ecode360.com/14213147

Fertilizer & Pesticide Certificate Programs:
http://rocklandcce.org/environment/fertilizer-law-certificate-program

Local Sources for Organic Materials:
http://rocklandcce.org/fact-sheets

Learn to Compost/Mulch Fall Leaves:

Leave it on the Lawn (Grass Clippings):
http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8816.html

Composting Instructions & Lawn Guidance:
http://rocklandcce.org/gardening/compost-resources

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Are you ILLEGALLY Applying Fertilizer in Rockland County?

1&2: Leaves & Grass Clippings to Catch Basin

3: Applying Fertilizer on Impervious Surface (washing to Catch Basin)

4&5: Overwatering fertilized lawn, draining to Catch Basin

These practices cause Nutrient Pollution and contribute to Algae Blooms

Rockland Lake Nutrient-Impaired Waterbody

This information has been brought to you on behalf of SUEZ North America Foundation, Inc.