

Fertilizing The Lawn

Nearly everyone appreciates a well-cared-for lawn and to achieve the healthiest green lawn, many people turn to chemical fertilizers. Unfortunately, lawn fertilizers pose several risks to human and animal health, water quality and the environment.

There are many hazardous chemicals found in fertilizers such as: ammonium nitrate, ammonium phosphate, ammonium sulfate, pesticides and potassium chloride. Fertilizers can be corrosive to skin, eyes and mucous membranes and can potentially affect the environment.



Fertilizer Use

When using fertilizers, read labels carefully to ensure that you are properly protected and that you use the right amount of fertilizer for your lawn. Check the weather forecast before you fertilize your lawn and fertilize only before the forecast calls for a steady, light rain. Avoid fertilizing if the forecast calls for a heavy rain fall, since your fertilizer will just run off into the waterways. Any fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways can easily be washed into storm water.

It is suggested that slow-release fertilizer is less-hazardous. Look for bags that have the word “WIN” on them. This indicates that the fertilizer contains water insoluble nitrogen.

Leftover Fertilizer

If you have fertilizer left over, store it in a sealed and labeled plastic bag and keep it away from children, pets and water.

If you would prefer not to store the fertilizer, it is best to find someone who can use the leftover fertilizer.

Disposal

Empty fertilizer bags that do not contain pesticides and weed killers can be disposed of in the garbage. If the fertilizer contains pesticide, please follow directions under “pesticides” on your product’s label to dispose of properly.

If you cannot find any way of using up the product, you may dispose of it by placing it in a heavy-duty plastic bag and contact the South UT Valley Solid Waste District at (801) 489-3027.

Reducing The Need For Fertilizer

You can reduce the amount of fertilizer you need by frequently mowing your lawn with a mulching mower to a height of three inches and leaving the clippings on the lawn. Using compost and soil amendments also reduces the need for fertilizer. Information on organic fertilizers can be obtained