

Friends of Casco Bay
Crafting A Fertilizer Ordinance
Key Components to Consider
6.6.2019

- Restrictions or outright **bans**
 - on cosmetic use
 - on turf/lawns only or also on other vegetation
 - certain locations?
 - seasonality?
 - water soluble fertilizers?
 - private property vs public property?
- Soil testing** is key. Require/mandate a soil test at the right depth, before any application of fertilizers, to prove need and determine the specific element(s) needed. Frequency? By homeowner or professional?
- Education that **too much fertilizer is too much fertilizer** is essential, no matter whether synthetic or organic or natural or in combinations, not to mention timing and setbacks, etc.
- Find balance between the need grow vegetation that will control erosion (which is worsening given changes in weather patterns), and not over-fertilizing or fertilizing at the wrong time
- Who can apply what, how much, and when?
- Restrictions on **selling**, or **applying**, or both?
- What about waivers and/or exemptions:
 - public property
 - private property
 - professional applications
 - under what circumstances
- Certifications of professionals?
- Limitations to consider (restricting or banning):
 - **On type:**
 - Only allow slow release non-water-soluble (WIN); ban or restrict water soluble (WSN); or no restrictions on type?
 - Limits on compost and manure?

- On **amounts** applied – consider mandating “**Use the absolute minimum**”
 - Limit % concentration of nitrogen
 - Restrict number of pounds or amount in some other way
- On **methods** of application
 - broadcasting
 - drop spreading
 - professional versus private applications
- On **timing**
 - Most effective uptake time(s)
 - Seasonal restrictions – fertilize only in late summer/fall, unless new lawn?
 - Temperature restrictions (only when soil temps are below 80?)
 - Specify black out dates
 - Weather restrictions: not allowed when rain is forecast or falling
- On **locations**:
 - Setbacks from water bodies, if so, how far back from
 - ditches; lakes and ponds and other surface waters; rivers and streams
 - coastal waters
 - Buffers
 - Zones of use by distance from water bodies
 - Not allowed on
 - impervious surfaces
 - frozen ground

□ **Education**

- Provide public education – in what ways? By whom?
- For retailers, general public, professionals, city employees
- Certification for professionals?
- Retail point-of-sale educational materials
- Labeling, for example, re-labelling as de-icer not allowed

□ **Enforcement**

- How?
- Who?
- Consequences of violation?