NOTES

Fertilizer Ordinance Meeting
Wednesday October 9 at 6:00pm
South Portland Community Center, 2nd fl conference room IN THE INNER OFFICES

Ad Hoc Working Group Members

Julie Rosenbach, Sustainability Coordinator
Fred Dillon, Stormwater Program Coordinator
Jesse O'Brien, Agronomist, Downeast Turf
Chip Osborne, Osborne Organics (absent)
Linden Thigpen, Resident
April Caricchio, City Councilor
Rick Peruzzi, Athletic Fields & Golf Course Manager, Parks & Rec Dept.
Cathy Ramsdell, Friends of Casco Bay (absent)
Breece Sleeper, Always Green Tree Lawn and Landscape (absent)
Rachel Mason Burger, Resident
Andrew Capelutti, Resident

Guests
Newell
Mainely Grass guy - Palmer

Agenda

1. Review of last meeting & updates
2. Review & discuss prohibitions

Lot of notes for E&O

Discussion of synthetic vs organic as specified in ordinance – 50% slow release directly addresses organic

Lumped in apps on performance, new dev and establishment – limits application of fertilizer but maybe ought to separate out new dev and performance turf
   • New dev needs a “jump start” initially – starter fertilizer (which is different from 50% slow release)
There are times when synthetics are needed on performance turf – e.g., Wainwright
Organics work with microbes – need warm moist conditions
In absence of these conditions nitrate fertilizer needed for plants to absorb N in cool wet conditions
Want organics as standard for performance turf except in “rescue situations” (find different language) – use only if necessary depending on conditions – not to exceed 3.25 lb / 1000 sf / year - total N per year combined can’t exceed 3.25# @ 50% slow release
If you’re going to use synthetic don’t use straight urea product
Annual report with evaluation every 3 years
New development and re-establishment of turf – “triple 19”
  - New or re-seeding requires some P in addition to N
  - Even if soil test indicates high P all lit say P needed
  - Dose: directions based on fert bag for P but it has to be incorporated into soil to minimize washoff; 1# N for synthetic
  - Must have 4” min of topsoil – something in the middle of the soil triangle, which doesn’t address other characteristics
    - Maybe better discussion for zoning / landuse
  - How many applications? Depends on soil quality but most of the time 1 application will do the job – in some cases another application is needed
  - Soil test reports will provide recommendations for starting new seed but don’t need soil test for new development
  - Don’t need soil test for re-establishment either
  - What dose of P do we not want to exceed? Is there a risk for overapplying P? P isn’t really very mobile in soil – biggest risk is erosion
  - Since it’s a 1-time application there’s a risk:benefit
  - Never use P unless for seeding – only do single application – not over 1 lb of P
  - 4-1-4? Or maybe a little more?

Discussion of established residential lawns predicated on soil test recommendations
  - Standard soil test don’t include N because N is fleeting in soil profile; comprehensive soil test does but typically done during growing season
    - Therefore soil testing may not be relevant for N but needed for P
  - Tissue testing (expensive)
  - Only organic?
  - Or zero fertilizer (synthetic and organic) on residential lawns? What’s the worst that could happen? How would it affect people’s ability to enjoy their lawn?
    - We can’t do 1 broad brush...
- How do we accommodate the folks who want a green lush lawn?
  - Tabled for further discussion...maybe limit to org only?

For Future meetings

3. Presentation from Julia Peterson, Julia.Peterson@unh.edu (water resource specialist with UNH Extension) and Jaime Roberge Jaime.Roberge@unh.edu

4. Discuss BMPs and what outreach & education we want to cover, and how to cover it.

5. Develop a separate Fertilizer committee or wrap into PMAC?

Weds at 4-5:30PM
- 11/13
- 12/11
- 1/8/20