DRAFT NOTES
Fertilizer Ordinance Meeting
Wednesday June 3, 2020 at 5:30pm
Video conference on zoom

Conference/zoom information

Topic: Fertilizer Working Group
Time: May 6, 2020 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://zoom.us/j/96849265188

Dial by phone:
929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 968 4926 5188

PRESENT: Julie, Cathy, Jesse, Rick, Rachel, Andrew, Linden, Fred (notes)
GUEST(S): Newell

Agenda

Prelim remarks: got Rick’s and Linden’s comments / docs

Review Linden’s comments
  • Let’s not be vague about managing soils sustainably
    o Not sure how to address this comment
    o Maybe not being detailed in whereas statement is OK but seems like we’ve been talking about soil quality and natural cycles
    o Would be consistent with soil quality requirements
    o Don’t want to make it too wordy; rest of document addresses these concepts
    o Don’t want to be too prescriptive
    o We might be “burying the lead”; it’s all about soil quality
    o See previous whereas statement – it addresses these concepts but could be embellished

  • Synthetic vs organic fertilizers – don’t need to distinguish between; don’t want to frame in these terms; eliminate “synthetic”
Another comment about synthetic/organic misapplication
  - Don’t need to spell it out because over application of either can have adverse impacts
  - Use the term “overuse” rather than “misapplied”? Misapplied is OK

Include gardens and shrubs?
  - Intent has always been to focus on turf
  - Adding in gardens and shrubs: do we specify application rates for different crop types? Definitely don’t want to do this – lots of existing resource: Coop Ext, MOFGA, etc
  - The extent of landcover that consists of turf is decreasing as people convert to gardens
  - Maybe include statement about the importance considering fertilizer application in general (it’s already there)
  - If we include gardens and shrubs then should we also include trees and patio plants?
  - Talk about these concerns in E&O section – don’t include it actual ordinance itself
  - Include “lawn” in turf definition, which needs a bit more work – list out all the different turf types (Cathy will take a stab at it)
  - Most people won’t refer to ordinance for determining what they actually do on the ground – we’ll point them to the GHSP website

1. Finalize definitions

  - Tree critical rootzone vs dripline of the forest (dripline is different): include because turf grass has different pH requirements and could result in potential fertilizer runoff; alters soil chemistry adversely
    - Use tree critical root zone instead of dripline
    - Consider banning in woodland preserve – only for public forests
    - Is 75’ buffer adequate? Ref to Andrew’s document
    - Overfertilizing turf can lead to adverse impacts to trees
    - Given that ordinance will significantly curtail fertilizer use, how necessary is this?
    - Too much fertilizer next to woodland can promote the growth of invasive plants
    - Will we ask folks to measure the diameter of their trees to determine what the TCRZ should be
    - Info Andrew provided (5/4 email) was very interesting; would be good to provide in the E&O section
• Need to include defs for TCRZ and forest – **FD and Andrew will work on**
• Links to Andrew’s refs
  - UCal Berkely
  - NYC
  - Washington, DC
  - Atlanta
  - Austin
  - Fairfax County VA
  - Raleigh, NC
  - MD DNR
  - Medford OR
  - Amherst MA

• Folks will review definitions and send comments to Julie

2. Discuss & Finalize best practices to promote through outreach & education

• Unable to get to it in this meeting

3. Schedule next two meetings

• July meeting: 7/8 at 4PM (Jesse will try to be there – can’t guarantee)
• August meeting:
• Also need to talk about exemption, waivers, enforcement, etc.