



Grow Healthy
South Portland

Fertilizer Ordinance

The City of South Portland **restricts the use of fertilizer on residential turf and lawns** to protect the health of our people, soil, and waterways.

When can I use fertilizer?

The City **allows the use of organic fertilizer:**

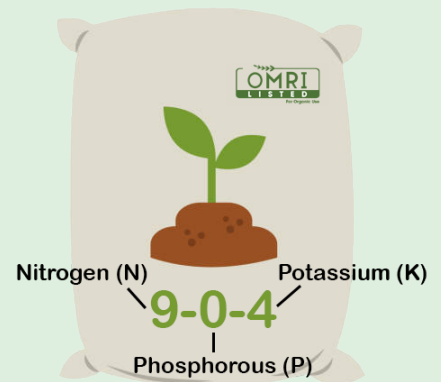
- On established turf and residential lawns, **only** when a soil test indicates a need for nitrogen; the fertilizer **must be phosphorus-free** unless the soil test indicates a need for phosphorus
- In limited applications for establishing new turf and lawns

How can I tell if a fertilizer is allowed?

Organic fertilizers will have one of these labels visible on the front:



All fertilizer bags have 3 numbers to tell you the primary nutrients: the first number is nitrogen (N), the second is phosphorous (P), and the third is potassium (K).



Test your soil before you fertilize to find out what your lawn needs! You can get a **FREE** soil test kit at the Sustainability Office at 496 Ocean Street.

What fertilizer applications are prohibited?

All synthetic fertilizers are strictly prohibited on turf and lawns.

All fertilizer applications (synthetic and organic) are prohibited:

- Within 75' of a water body, wetland, or other environmentally sensitive area
- On frozen ground or water-saturated surfaces
- When a heavy rain event is forecast or occurring
- During summer dormancy (June through August)
- On impervious surfaces (pavement, sidewalks, etc.)

To see the full guidelines, open your smartphone camera and point it here:



Any person found to be in violation of this ordinance will receive a letter of warning; additional violations will be punished with fines up to \$1,000.

We're here to help! Learn more about approved products and how to care for your yard and garden without pesticides:

growhealthysouthportland.org