Urban Nutrient Management Panel

UPDATE FOR THE WQGIT

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Approximate Timeline

~~8/29 - Panel received draft report for review and comment~~

~~9/4 - WTWG initial briefing~~

~~9/11 - Panel meeting to discuss comments and identify any needed changes or barriers to endorsement.~~

~~9/16 - USWG initial briefing~~

We are here

9/26- Panel provided with final draft of the report

Week of 10/13 - Panel meets to provide final approval

10/21 - USWG receives full recommendations presentation (WTWG sent a copy of the technical appendix for review; **recording of the presentation will be sent to WQGIT**; will be seeking USWG email approval by week of 11/10)

10/27 - WQGIT receives full recommendations presentation

11/6 - WTWG Approval Meeting

11/17 - WQGIT Approval Meeting

Turfgrass Fertilizer Application Method

Data Sources

- AAPFCO
  - 1985-2016
- State Data
  - 2017-2020/2021
- Turfgrass Acres

Data Preparation

- Import data
- County-data summed by state
- Determine trends
  - Remove data outliers at the county scale
  - 3-year rolling average

Incorporation in CAST

- Distributed to turfgrass at state-levels
- Trend from the raw data is applied while holding 1995 constant (TMDL)
- Based on Bay Program Partnership decisions

Basic Structure (updated… not finalized)

The panel is not recommending major changes to the fertilizer application methodology

The panel is replacing the current UNM BMP rates with 3-4 updated "BMPs":

- **Automatic Fertilizer Rate Adjustment:** Not a reported practice, but the reduction in application rate and subsequent loads from the declining non-farm fertilizer sales data.
- **Urban Nutrient Management Plans (w/ Soil Test):** A simplified version of the UNM Plans. It adjusts the N efficiency to remove the double-counting of the rate reduction from the declining sales, and drops the high/low split. Longer duration based on certified plan and completed soil test
- **Urban Nutrient Management Plans (no Soil Test):** Same essential qualifying criteria as the previous BMP, but would be open to signed homeowner pledges following core practices, as well as "trained" professionals developing plan recommendations without a soil test. Same efficiencies but shorter duration.
- **Non-fertilizer Turfgrass:** A slightly higher % reductions over the UNM Plan BMP. This would be an annual BMP.

There is more guidance around record-keeping and triggers for on-site verification checks.