

Technical Requirements for Tracking and Reporting Urban Nutrient Management BMPs

Watershed Technical Workgroup
November 6, 2025



Chesapeake Bay Program
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Today's Outline

Panel Background and Membership

Definitions & Reporting Requirements

Proposed Updates

2025 UNM Report

Panel Background and Membership

2013 UNM Panel Report

Original Panel was launched in 2011 and approved in 2013

Established two (and a half) types of BMPs:

- State-wide P reductions for all states, based on legislation status
 - To be phased out in 2016 and replaced by state-reported estimates of P-fertilizer application
- Individual BMPs for UNM Plans
- MD-specific credit for Nitrogen legislation (DIY and Commercial Applicators)

Charge

- Evaluate the effectiveness of state fertilizer legislation in reducing the application of nitrogen and phosphorus on urban turf grass.
- Evaluate options and implications for providing nutrient reductions for large, non-fertilized lands
- Evaluate potential approaches to streamline tracking, reporting, and verification of both individual urban nutrient management plans, and any pollutant removal associated with state-wide fertilizer legislation.
- Work with the USWG to provide requested feedback on urban nutrient application and physical process simulation, including P export pathways, and P sensitivities

Membership

Expert BMP Review Panel: Urban Nutrient Management	
<i>Panelist</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Cecilia Lane	DOEE
Frank Schneider & Denise Uzipis	PA Dept of Agriculture
Martin Hurd	Fairfax County, VA
Dylan Burgevin	MDE
Arianna Johns & Kay Alexander	Virginia DEQ
Dave Montali	Tetra Tech
Kevin Du Bois	Department of Defense
Michael Goatley	Virginia Tech
Gonzalo Ortiz	Virginia Tech, VA DCR
Peter Landschoot	Pennsylvania State
David Wood & Michele Berry	CSN (Panel co-facilitators)

- Membership solicited from USWG to represent states, local govts, and federal agencies
- Representation balanced with turfgrass specialists from academia

- Convened in September 2024
- Held 7 meetings over the course of the year

Technical Appendix

Definitions and Reporting Requirements

Overview

- BMP #1: Urban Nutrient Management Plan With a Soil Test
- BMP#2: Urban Nutrient Management Plan Without a Soil Test
- BMP#3: Non-Fertilized Turfgrass

Table 1. Summary of Recommended Urban Nutrient Management BMPs

	TN Reduction	TP Reduction	Credit Duration
BMP #1	6 %	4.5 %	3 years
BMP #2	6 %	4.5 %	1 year
BMP #3	7 %	9 %	1 year

UNM Plan BMPs based on Rate, Timing, and Placement of Fertilization

Non-Fertilized Turf based on managed condition w/ clipping management practices

Reporting Requirements

- ***BMP Name:*** UNM w/ Soil Test, UNM without Soil Test, Non-Fertilized Turf
- ***Acres:*** number of acres of qualifying UNM plans or pledges within geographic reporting unit
- ***Location:*** Approved NEIEN geographies: Latitude/Longitude of approximate centerpoint of acres; County, Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC12, HUC10, HUC8, HUC6, HUC4), State
- ***Date of Implementation:*** Date the plan was written, pledge was signed, etc.
- ***Land Use:*** Eligible land uses include Turfgrass, Tree Canopy Over Turfgrass, Solar Pervious (MS4, CSS, and Non-Regulated)



BMP “Combinations”

- *Can a jurisdiction report other stormwater BMPs on the same acre covered by an urban nutrient management plan BMP?*
 - *Yes*
- *Can multiple UNM BMPs be combined on the same acre?*
 - *No*



Odds and Ends

Q8. *Are jurisdictions eligible for state-wide nutrient reduction credit if it has passed urban nutrient management legislation?*

A8. No additional state-wide BMP reductions are provided for states with fertilizer or UNM legislation. Reductions in fertilizer application rates driven by legislation are captured by AAPFCO/state-reported fertilizer sales data submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Program Office.

Q9. *Are homeowner pledges eligible for credit under one of the UNM BMPs?*

A9. Yes, signed homeowner pledges will be eligible for credit under the UNM without a Soil Test BMP, as well as the Non-Fertilized Turfgrass BMP. Beyond meeting the qualifying criteria outlined in Section 6, states have the flexibility to determine if they will collect homeowner pledges and the format those pledges could take. New pledges must be re-submitted every year to maintain their credit.

Timing and P6/P7 Transition

Q10. *When do these recommendations take effect, and can I still report the Phase 6 UNM BMPs?*

A10. These recommendations take effect in Phase 7 Model. Phase 6 UNM BMPs are still available for reporting until the Phase 6 Model is sunset. The new BMPs will also be made available as a “planning BMP” in Phase 6 CAST and included as draft in the appendix for use in planning scenarios.

Q11. *Following the transition to Phase 7, will states be required to go back and report the P7 UNM for their entire history?*

A11. No. In NEIEN, for annual progress reporting, the Phase 6 UNM BMPs (Low, Medium and High Risk) will map directly to the UNM Plan w/o a Soil Test Practice. Once the Phase 7 model is officially adopted, states will no longer be able to report the Phase 6 practices.

Proposed Changes

Based on Comments Received

Two Proposed Additions

- Adding a 4th NEIEN BMP
 - Allows VA to continue current aggregated annual reporting while maintaining consistent messaging for UNM plans that do report soil tests
 - 3-year and 1-year Soil test BMPs would both Map to UNM w/ a Soil Test in CAST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Credit Duration</u>	<u>TN Eff</u>	<u>TP Eff</u>
UNM w / a Soil Test 3-year	3	6%	4.5%
UNM w / a Soil Test 1-year	1	6%	4.5%
UNM without a Soil Test	1	6%	4.5%
Non-Fertilized Turfgrass	1	7%	9%

Two Proposed Additions (part 2)

- Add a new Q&A to address presumed pre-BMP condition to better explain Non-Fertilized BMP.

Q12. How are the eligible land uses simulated in P7 to ensure the Non-fertilized turfgrass BMP represents a change in management compared to the Pre-BMP condition?

A12. Every acre of the eligible land use categories for the UNM BMPs (turfgrass, tree canopy over turfgrass, and solar pervious) is assumed to receive fertilizer. The updated non-farm fertilizer application methodology takes the state-wide fertilizer nutrient mass and divides it by the state-wide turfgrass acres, plus solar pervious acres and construction acres, to determine the non-farm fertilizer application rate for each state.

Next Steps

October 27 - Briefing to the WQGIT

November 6 - WTWG Approval of Technical Appendix

November 12 - USWG Approval (via email)

November 17 - WQGIT Approval

Questions

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