Chesapeake Bay Program
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CHESAPEAKE STORMWATER NETWORK

Federal Facility Reporting of Urban Nutrient Management BMPs

An Update to the Federal Facilities Workgroup
April 14, 2026

The Urban Nutrient Management Expert Panel

The History

- Original Panel was launched in 2011 and approved in 2013

- Established two types of BMPs:
  - State-wide P reductions for all states, based on legislation status
    - Phased out in 2016 and replaced by state-reported estimates of P-fertilizer application

  - Individual BMPs for UNM Plans - High Risk & Low Risk

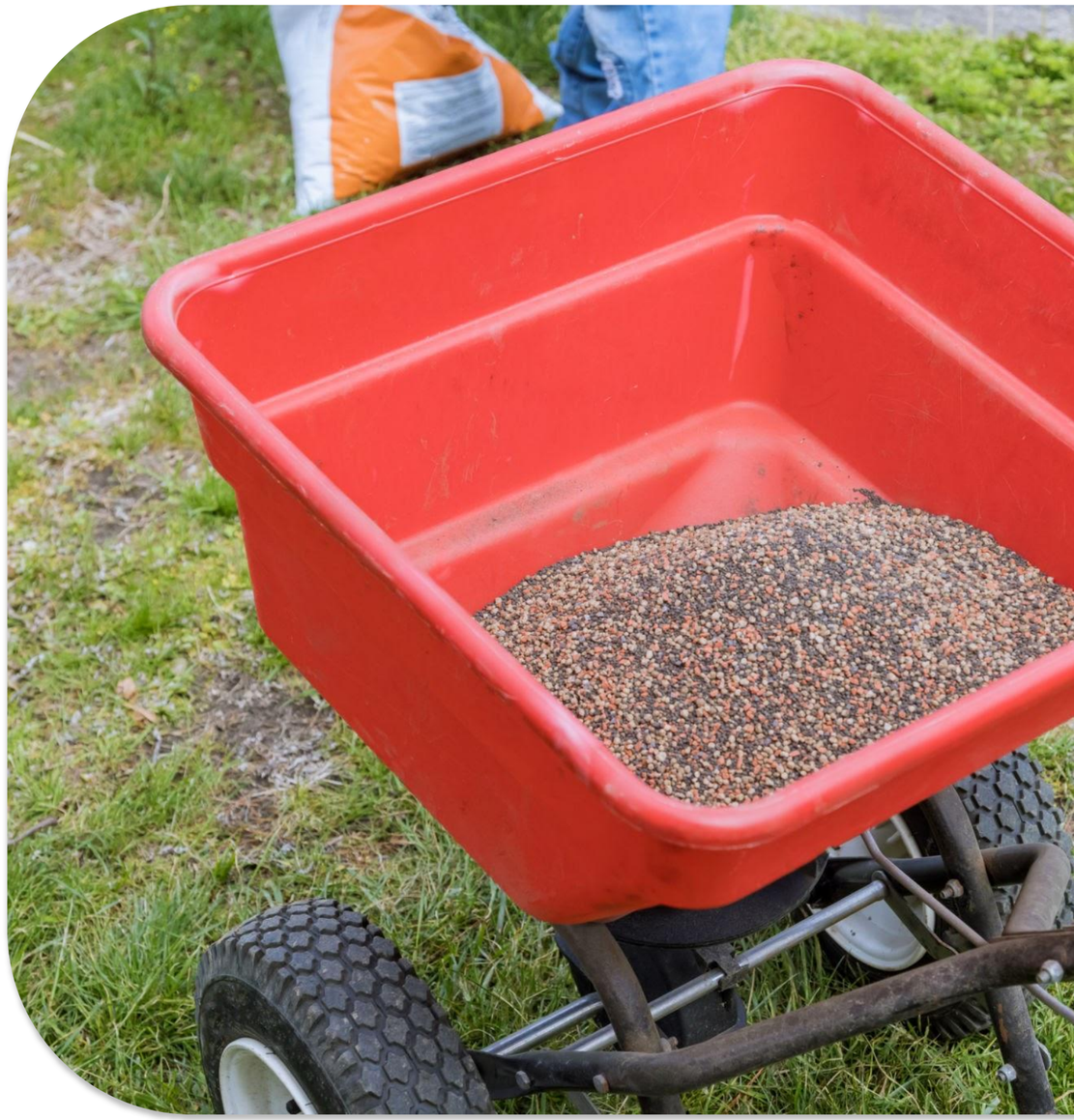
Revisiting UNM in 2025

Evaluate the effectiveness of state fertilizer legislation

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

Provide feedback on urban nutrient application and physical process simulation, including P export pathways, and P sensitivities



The Panel

Expert BMP Review Panel: Urban Nutrient Management	
Panelist	***Affiliation***
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 govs, and federal agencies
- Representation balanced with turfgrass specialists from academia

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

BMP Tracking and Reporting

The “New” BMPs for Phase 7:

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

BMP #1: UNM Plan w/ a Soil Test

Plan written by a trained professional

Based on soil test analysis

- Accredited lab
- Minimum of P, K, and pH

Follows Core Best Practices for Rate, Timing, Location and Clipping Management

Appropriate for Certified Applicator Programs

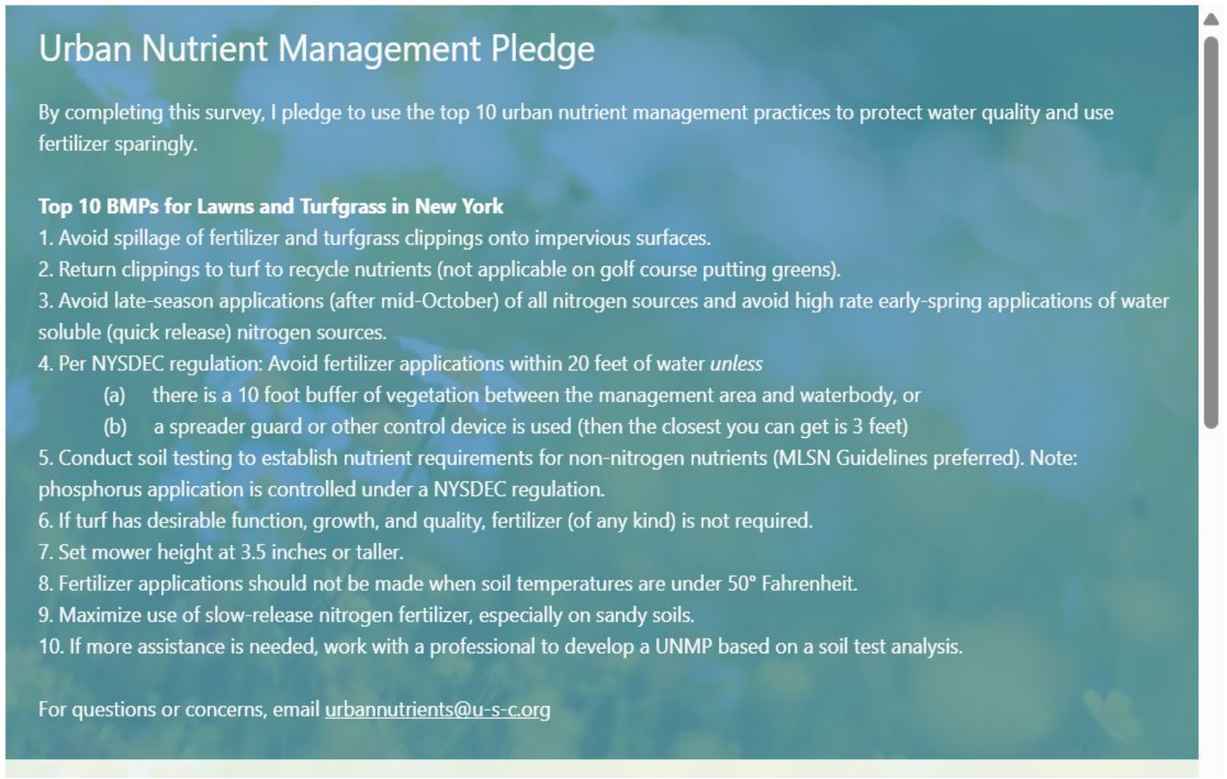
BMP #2: UNM Plan without a Soil Test

Follows Core Best Practices for Rate, Timing, Location and Clipping Management

Lacks a soil test or formal plan developed by a trained professional

Appropriate for Homeowner Pledge programs

Urban Nutrient Management Online Pledge Submission



Urban Nutrient Management Pledge

By completing this survey, I pledge to use the top 10 urban nutrient management practices to protect water quality and use fertilizer sparingly.

Top 10 BMPs for Lawns and Turfgrass in New York

1. Avoid spillage of fertilizer and turfgrass clippings onto impervious surfaces.
2. Return clippings to turf to recycle nutrients (not applicable on golf course putting greens).
3. Avoid late-season applications (after mid-October) of all nitrogen sources and avoid high rate early-spring applications of water soluble (quick release) nitrogen sources.
4. Per NYSDEC regulation: Avoid fertilizer applications within 20 feet of water *unless*
   (a) there is a 10 foot buffer of vegetation between the management area and waterbody, or
   (b) a spreader guard or other control device is used (then the closest you can get is 3 feet)
5. Conduct soil testing to establish nutrient requirements for non-nitrogen nutrients (MLSN Guidelines preferred). Note: phosphorus application is controlled under a NYSDEC regulation.
6. If turf has desirable function, growth, and quality, fertilizer (of any kind) is not required.
7. Set mower height at 3.5 inches or taller.
8. Fertilizer applications should not be made when soil temperatures are under 50° Fahrenheit.
9. Maximize use of slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, especially on sandy soils.
10. If more assistance is needed, work with a professional to develop a UNMP based on a soil test analysis.

For questions or concerns, email urbannutrients@u-s-c.org

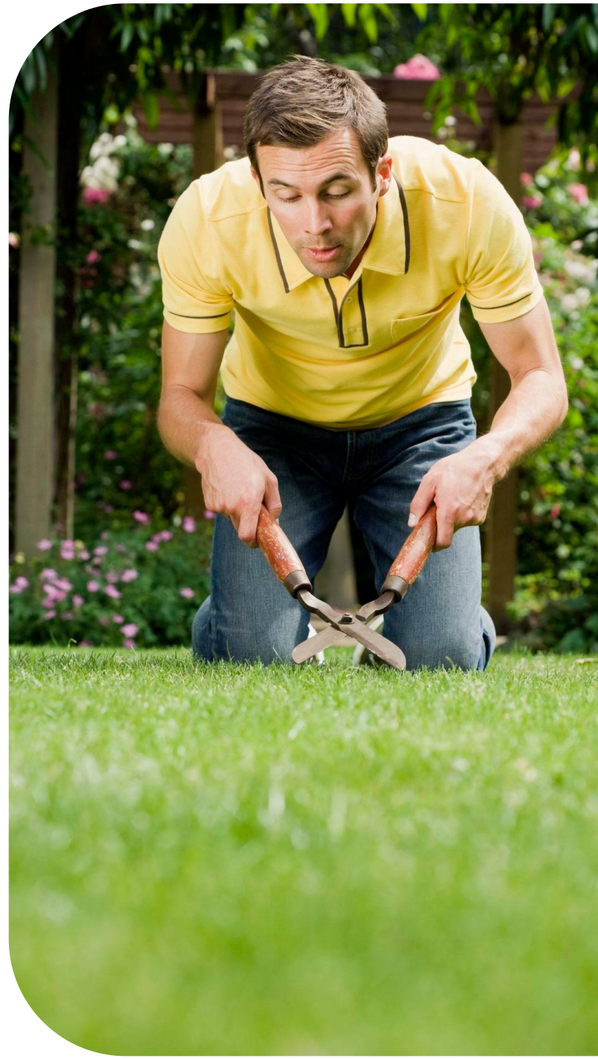
BMP #3: Non-Fertilized Turfgrass

For properties effectively maintaining healthy turfgrass to reduce nutrient export without the use of fertilizer.

Must be actively managed turf (not successional), often under a “mow-only” designation

There must contain a signed commitment by the owner/property manager that they intend to adhere to the clipping management practices:

Turf must demonstrate absence of exposed soil (less than 15% exposed)



Non-Fertilized Land Explainer

Q: 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?

A. 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.

BMP 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

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

Q: Can you report other stormwater BMPs on the same acre covered by an urban nutrient management plan BMP?

Yes

Q: Can multiple UNM BMPs be combined on the same acre

No

BMP FAQ Odds and Ends

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

A. 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.

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

A. 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.

Federal Reporting Templates & Getting Ahead

Federal reporting templates in CAST are not yet updated with these changes, because they do not take effect until Phase 7.

Some things to begin documenting:

- Name, contact information and locator data for the owner, and landscape manager/responsible entity
- System for maintaining signed commitment by the owner/property manager that they intend to adhere to the following clipping management practices

THANK YOU

David Wood
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