Draft Urban Nutrient Management Technical FAQs

For Watershed Technical Workgroup Review at August 13, 2013 Meeting

Q1: What are the efficiency reductions a jurisdiction can claim for qualifying urban nutrient management plans and pledges? And how do the reductions differ by applicator type or risk type?

A: The table below lists the reductions available to each jurisdiction. These are reductions associated with urban nutrient management plans rather than fertilizer legislation. Fertilizer legislation reductions are described in question 3.

Table 1. Efficiency Reductions for Qualifying Urban Nutrient Management Acres in NY, PA, DE, DC, WV and VA

Lawn Application Type	Risk Type	Percent TN Reduced per Acre	Percent TP Reduced per Acre
NA	High	20	10
NA	Low	6	3
NA	Unknown	9	4.5

NY, PA, DE, DC, WV and VA do not need to report lawn application type as the reductions in TN and TP per acre of qualifying plan or pledge are the same for every lawn application type for these jurisdictions.

Table 2. Efficiency Reductions for Qualifying Urban Nutrient Management Acres in MD

Lawn Application Type	Risk Type	Percent TN Reduced per Acre	Percent TP Reduced per Acre
Commercial Applicator Lawn	NA	9	*
DIY Lawn	NA	4.5	*
Unfertilized Lawn	High	20	10
Unfertilized Lawn	Low	6	3
Unfertilized Lawn	Unknown	9	4.5

*Maryland's urban nutrient management legislation targets reductions in nitrogen, and does not impact phosphorus. Maryland may submit acres of documented, unfertilized lawns under qualifying urban nutrient management plans or pledges.

Q2: What is a high, low, or unknown risk type for each lawn category?

A: The panel defined high risk lawns as those acres exhibiting one or more of the following:

- Over-fertilizing beyond state or extension recommendations
- P-saturated soils as determined by a soil analysis
- Newly established turf
- Slopes of more than 15%
- Exposed soil (more than 5% for managed turf and 15% for unmanaged turf)
- High water table (within 3 feet of the surface)

- Over-irrigated lawns
- Soils that are shallow, compacted or have low water holding capacity
- High use areas (e.g., athletic fields, golf courses)
- Sandy soils (infiltration rate more than 2 inches per hour)
- Adjacent to stream, river or Bay (within 300 feet)
- Karst terrain

Low risk lawns are those acres not exhibiting any of the above characteristics. Unknown risk lawns are those acres with unknown characteristics. Some jurisdictions may define additional characteristics of high risk lawns.

Q3: Why is Maryland not eligible for reductions to fertilized lawns or lawns with an unknown fertilization routine?

A: The expert panel determined that Maryland's current law regulating urban nutrient management plans would be most appropriately reflected in the model as reductions on lawns managed by commercial applicators and do-it-yourselfers. Additionally, the panel recommended slightly smaller nitrogen efficiency reductions on these acres because it determined that Maryland's current law requires only a subset of practices defined by the panel as qualifying for urban nutrient management. The panel also indicated that it may be difficult to ensure that urban nutrient management recommendations are followed on DIY lawns. Maryland may also receive credit for urban nutrient management plans on unfertilized lawns.

Q4: What does a jurisdiction need to report to receive credit for urban nutrient management plans?

A: The reporting requirements differ slightly between Maryland and the other jurisdictions.

DC, DE, NY, PA, VA and WV should report:
Risk Type: High; Low; Unknown
Acres: Number of acres of qualifying urban nutrient management plans or pledges within geographic reporting unit
Location: County; County (CBWSOnly); Land-River Segment; HUC 10-12
Date Plan was Written: Year

MD should report the following:
Applicator Type: Commercial; DIY; Unfertilized
Risk Type: High; Low; Unknown
Acres: Number of acres of qualifying urban nutrient management plans or pledges within geographic reporting unit
Location: County; County (CBWSOnly); Land-River Segment; HUC 10-12
Date on which acres were estimated: Year

Q5: Does a jurisdiction need to report the urban nutrient management plans every year to receive credit in the model for existing plans?

A: Yes. Jurisdictions should report the number of acres in urban nutrient management plans to the Chesapeake Bay Program each year to receive credit in the model.

Q6: Will historic urban nutrient management plans submitted in previous years receive credit in future years?

A: No. Jurisdictions should report the number of acres in urban nutrient management plans to the Chesapeake Bay Program each year to receive credit in the model. It is up to each jurisdiction to ensure that their databases contain plans that have been verified in the last three years.

Q7: What if the Watershed Model does not have enough urban pervious acres to accommodate all the acres of urban nutrient management plans my jurisdiction reports in a county or land-river segment or small watershed?

A: If 100% of urban pervious acres are being treated by urban nutrient management plans then the Watershed Model will not give credit for additional plans.

Q8: Can a jurisdiction report other BMPs on the same acre covered by an urban nutrient management plan?

A: Yes. The urban nutrient management plan will be credited in the Watershed Model along with other urban BMPs on the same acre.

Q9: How will the model credit qualifying urban nutrient management plans and pledges for different lawn or risk types in the same county or locality? Will higher risk lawns receive credit before lower risk lawns in the model?

A: Table 1 and 2 in this document contain unique combinantions of lawn application types and risk types.. Each urban nutrient management plan or pledge should be uniquely reported for only one of these combinations, and the model will not allow two unique combinations to overlap on the same acre. The model will credit urban nutrient management plans in the order listed in the two tables, with high risk plans being credited first and plans for an unknown risk type credited last.

Q10: What credit will my jurisdiction receive in the model if it has passed legislation banning phosphorus in lawn fertilizer? What if my jurisdiction has NOT passed legislation banning phosphorus in lawn fertilizer?

A: Starting in 2013, each jurisdiction with a fertilizer ban receives a 70% reduction in the application rate of total phosphorus to urban lawns. Each jurisdiction that has yet to pass legislation receives a 60% reduction in the application rate of total phosphorus to urban lawns beginning in 2013. MD, NY and VA all currently have legislation while DC, DE, PA and WV do not. When a jurisdiction does pass a fertilizer ban, they may request to receive the 70% reduction in phosphorus application rate to urban lawns. This request would go before the Urban Stormwater Workgroup for approval.

This reduction to application rates will be automatic in the model. An automatic reduction of this type will result in reductions to edge-of-stream phosphorus loads across the watershed. These reductions to edge-of-stream phosphorus loads will likely differ from locality to locality across the watershed due to each locality's unique climatic and hydrogeomorphic qualities.

Q11: When will jurisdictions be required to submit not-farm fertilizer statistics to receive reductions in application rate of total phosphorus to urban lawns?

A: Starting in 2016, all jurisdictions will need to report non-farm fertilizer sales statistics to the Chesapeake Bay Program. These statistics will be used to determine if the 70 and 60 percent reductions in application rates described above are still applicable in each jurisdiction. A group will be convened before 2016 to determine exactly how these non-farm fertilizer sales statistics should be submitted and used.