

# Public Workshop: Fertilizer and Pesticide Use Policy

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January 24, 2024





# Purpose of this Policy

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1. To state the Town's view regarding nutrient fertilizer and pesticide use
  2. To formulate policies and guidelines to assist the Town in developing a framework to achieve its goals
  3. To encourage agricultural users and golf courses to participate in voluntary programs at the state level, including using fertilizers and pesticides in a manner consistent with best management practices
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# Fertilizer Application Guidelines

## CONCERNS

- Care and maintenance of residential and commercial lawns and landscaped areas can contribute to water quality degradation
- Unfit use, formulation, and timing of fertilizer application can result in adverse impacts to stormwater runoff and water quality in our water bodies

## PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- Town encourages all uses and applications of fertilizer to comply with best management practices
- All applications shall follow and be performed in accordance with RIDEM criteria including:
  - *Conduct soil tests for nutrients*
  - *Use nitrogen fertilizers that contain 50% or more slow-release nitrogen*
  - *Fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus should not be applied to turf closer than 100 feet to any water body or wetlands, or on steep slopes where runoff flows directly into surface waters or wetlands*
  - *Fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus should not be applied to saturated ground or impervious surfaces. Stormwater conveyances should be covered before application*
  - *Never apply within 48 hours of a heavy rain event*

# Pesticide Application Guidelines

## CONCERNS

- Inappropriate use of pesticides may cause injury to people or cause adverse effects on environment
- Drifting or washing of pesticides into bodies of water may cause damage to human or animal life

## PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- All commercial pesticide uses and applications shall comply with RIDEM standards
- Any person applying pesticides must be 18 or older
- Any person engaged in noncommercial application shall understand label instructions, warnings, storage, and disposal
- All pest control equipment using pesticides and drawing water from surface waters shall have RIDEM approved anti-siphon device to prevent backflow and shall secure any required permits
- No person shall apply pesticides that allows it to drift or flow into water supplies
- No application shall be made by mechanically powered equipment at times where wind velocity may cause it to drift beyond target areas
- Only licensed or certified commercial applicators shall apply pesticides within any commercial/public buildings or grounds

# Exemptions from this Policy

1. Agricultural land management activities (including fertilizer application) that have a Natural Resources Conservation Service-approved conservation management plan
2. Agricultural pesticide/herbicide applications that comply with RIDEM regulations and required permits



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Thank you  
Questions?