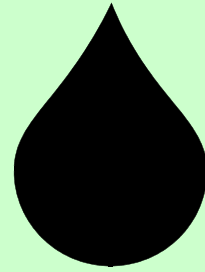


Groundwater

AGRI-BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP

*Brought to you by the Michigan Agri-Business Association
through a grant from the Michigan Water Stewardship Program*



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The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding water protection, and the Michigan Water Stewardship Program (MWSP).

Effective Application of Phosphorous Fertilizers

Phosphorus (P) is one of three major essential plant nutrients necessary for healthy plant growth. Phosphorous promotes cell division and stimulates healthy root growth and seed germination. It is a nutrient required by all plants and animals, and can help improve crop production. It is especially important during germination and emergence.

For best results when using phosphorous while ensuring safety and protecting water resources, the amount, timing, location and frequency of application are important factors to consider.

Following are guidelines on how to use phosphorus fertilizer properly and safely:

- Always follow MSU fertilizer recommendations to be in conformance with Michigan Right to Farm Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices.
- Applying fertilizer during a plant's growing season optimizes nutrient uptake and minimizes loss. Furthermore, applying fertilizer shortly before planting minimizes the potential for loss and increases uptake by seedlings.
- The USDA/NRCS and MSU Extension recommends that phosphorus fertilizers be incorporated or, when planting, placed three inches below the soil surface, and that growers minimize disturbance of top soil. Placing phosphorous and all fertilizers below the surface will increase retention and its availability to plants.

If you have additional questions, visit the Michigan Agri-Business Association's Web site at www.miagbiz.org

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