

# Learn How to Apply Lawn Fertilizers

The 4 R's – **RIGHT RATE**, Right product, Right place, Right Time

## Step 1: Lawn Area

Estimate area of lawn using GPS, mapping websites, or physically measuring it in square feet (length x width).

## Step 2: Read Directions

Find out how much nitrogen is in your fertilizer. Apply 3.2 lbs. of N per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of lawn each year.

## Step 3: Do the Math

Multiply the weight of the bag by the N % to know how much N you have. Multiply 3.2lbs/1,000 by your lawn area to know total N you need to apply each year.

## Step 4: Apply Fertilizer

Fertilize 3-4 times between April and November. Weigh your bag before you apply. Spread evenly and clean up.



43.8 lbs. bag of P-free lawn fertilizer

**Example**

**1** Lawn Area = 5,000 Ft<sup>2</sup>

**2** N : P : K  
(22:0:15)  
22% - N (nitrogen)  
0% - P (phosphorus)  
15% - K (potassium)

**22% N of a 43.8 lbs. bag**  
N = 0.22 x 43.8 = 9.6 lbs. in the bag  
P = 0.00 x 43.8 = 0.0 lbs. in the bag  
K = 0.15 x 43.8 = **6.6 lbs. in the bag**  
16.2 lbs. in the bag  
(The remaining 27.6 lbs. is filler)

**3** Calculate how much to apply per year and per treatment  
3.2/1,000 x 5,000 = 16 lbs. of N/year  
If apply 4 times (16/4 = 4), apply 4 lbs. of N per treatment  
4.0 lbs. of N/0.22 = **18.2 lbs.** of fertilizer per treatment  
18.2 x 4 = **72.8 lbs.** of fertilizer or 1.7 bags per year

**4**

N = Nitrogen  
P = Phosphorus  
K = Potassium



Green Lawns, Blue Waters – Protecting Colorado's Water One Yard at a Time

# Green Lawns Blue Waters Be P-Free

- Don't apply fertilizer within 15 feet of water
- Watch the weather, avoid any storms
- Calculate the right amount to apply
- Use phosphorus free fertilizer
- Storm drains are not treated
- Sweep up all fertilizer spills
- Mulch your lawn clippings
- Compost your leaves
- Exposed soils erode
- Get a soil test

[lovecoloradowater.org](http://lovecoloradowater.org)

[barr-milton.org](http://barr-milton.org)



Buy phosphorus-free fertilizer and keep our water clean.

***Don't feed the algae:*** Too much nitrogen and phosphorus grow scummy algae in our lakes. Do your part and help keep Colorado's water clean by using phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers. [Learn more](#) 