

# Fertilizer Use Act of 2011: One Year after Implementation



Nutrient Management Program

November 6, 2014

# Effective October 1, 2013

- Turfgrass managers and homeowners
- Limits on N and P
  - Application rates
  - Application times
  - Soil testing requirements
- Turfgrass professionals
  - Certification & licensing requirements
- State Chemist Section
  - Lawn fertilizer labeling requirements

# N and P Application

- 2014 is the first reporting period for businesses
- Reports due March 1, 2015
- N and P applied by county

# Certification

- Anyone who, in their job, applies fertilizer to turf
  - Supervisory, managerial or ownership role
- Over 1554 have attended training and taken the exam
  - Offered by MDA, UM, MTC and others
- 1316 have passed and attained certification

# Registered Employees

- Non-supervisory fertilizer applicators
- Must work under direction of certified PFA
- Employer-provided training
  - MDA-developed curriculum online
- Currently 388 registered employees

# Licensing

- Any business or organization that applies N or P to turf must be licensed
- At least one PFA must be on staff
- Business files annual fertilizer report
- 621 turf management entities are licensed

# Renewal Period

- Certificates, licenses and registrations
  - Expire June 30 each year
- Recertification has 2-hr continuing education requirement
- Business must have at least one certified professional on staff
- Registration has employer-provided training requirement

# Inspections

- 1 permanent FT specialist
- 1 contractual FT specialist
- State divided into “northwest” & “southeast”
- Out-of-state companies assigned to nearest MD region

# Inspections

- 136 inspections conducted since May 2013
- Most common violations:
  - Not having fertilizer business license (MDA-F)
  - MDA-F number not on work vehicles
  - Applicators not certified or registered
  - Inadequate records
- Overapplication is not commonly found

# “Illegal” Lawncare Contract Specs

- Project engineers and architects
- HOAs and local governments
  - Contract specs violate the law
  - Too high nitrogen and phosphorous rates
  - Phosphorous application without soil testing
  - Timing violations
  - Hiring uncertified/unlicensed firms
  - No application setbacks from water bodies

# Outreach

- Who are these entities?
- How can we help them write compliant contracts?

# Contact & More Information

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