

House Research Bill Summary: Phosphorus Fertilizer Control

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Overview

House File 3582 strictly limits the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus on turf surfaces in the seven metropolitan counties.

Section I

1. Definition; turf. Defines turf as mowed grasses maintained at residential, public, and private locations.

2. Phosphorus use prohibition. Generally prohibits the use of plant foods containing phosphorus on turf in the seven metropolitan counties.

Exceptions to the general prohibition are allowed when a soil test indicates added phosphorus is needed to support healthy turf growth or during the first year when a new area of turf is being established. If phosphorus plant food is used, the rate of application must not exceed University of Minnesota recommendations.

Fertilizer containing phosphorus must not be applied on impervious surfaces. Any spill to an impervious surface must be immediately cleaned up and properly disposed of.

3. Phosphorus plant food consumer information.

Subd. 1. Point of sale information. After August 1, 2002, a person selling plant food containing phosphorus must post appropriate consumer information about lawful sale, prohibited uses, and voluntary best management practices at the point of display and provided printed consumer information to a person purchasing plant food containing phosphorus.

Subd. 2. Production and distribution of point of sale information. The commissioner of agriculture, the Minnesota extension service, and the fertilizer industry must produce consumer information materials to meet the needs of the display requirements in subdivision 1. The commissioner must implement a training program on the posting and distribution on consumer information. The information materials must be available at retail points of sale no later than April 1, 2001.

4. Factors causing adulteration. Clarifies the requirement that fertilizer must be properly labeled as to its actual chemical content.

5. Assessment of administrative penalty for improper use or sale of fertilizer containing phosphorus. Allows the commissioner to assess, or delegate to local units of government to assess, an administrative penalty of \$25 for violating the prohibitions on the use of plant foods containing phosphorus.