

# Right Fertilizer Choices Reduce Environmental Footprint and Increase Bottom Line

**I**n recent years, increased concerns about protecting water from fertilizer runoff and leaching have prompted government officials to pay closer attention to the landscape industry. In fact, some local and federal regulatory agencies, notably the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are considering imposing new restrictions on fertilizer applications.

By using the right fertilizer at the right rate, time and place, landscape professionals can realize cost and time savings with fewer applications, remain competitive in the market and stay ahead of possible environmental restrictions.

## Fertilizers and the Environment

Most traditional fertilizers are water soluble and release nutrients quickly. When nitrogen is delivered too quickly for the plant to take up, unused nutrients are often lost to the environment. A nutrient that leaves its intended application site risks becoming a pollutant. Movement of nitrate-nitrogen generally receives the most attention because it can contaminate ground water and cause health hazards. Excess nitrate-nitrogen and phos-

phorus in water bodies or wetlands can cause algae bloom and other plant growth that deplete oxygen in the water and reduce its ability to support life. In addition to the environmental impact, the loss of fertilizer nutrients to the surrounding environment represents lost value from professional landscapers' fertilizer budgets.

## Slow- and Controlled-Release Fertilizers Reduce Environmental Losses

Slow- and controlled-release fertilizers deliver nutrients to the soil gradually and consistently feed the plant over a longer period of time. These fertilizers are manufactured in a way that prevents water from rapidly dissolving the fertilizer nutrients. The purpose is to prevent release of the nutrients immediately following application. Instead, nitrogen is gradually released in unison with turfgrass demands.

Slow- and controlled-release

fertilizers effectively deliver more nutrients to intended plants while protecting against environmental loss. Nutrients stay in the root zone for longer and feed the plant at the root, which results in green, healthy turf and a significantly lower impact on the environment.

## Agrium Advanced Technologies' Earth-Friendly Fertilizers

Agrium Advanced Technologies' slow- and controlled-release fertilizers are engineered with advanced-generation coatings and other proprietary technologies that increase nutrient uptake by plants and reduce losses to the environment.

Landscape professionals rely on our environmentally friendly fertilizer technologies to control nutrient release for improved plant growth and environmental performance. Agrium Advanced Technologies' product line includes the following slow- and controlled-release products—POLYON®, NITROFORM®, NUTRALENE®, XCU™ and DURATION CR®.

Our company is working hard to provide innovative, cost-saving solutions with slow- and controlled-release technologies and we're committed to helping our customers discover smarter ways to grow. For more information, please visit our website [www.AgriumAT.com](http://www.AgriumAT.com).

