## Healthy Lawns and Healthy Environment Initiative



## Memorandum of Understanding



# Cemorandum of $8 \ell_{\text {NDERSTANDING }}$ 

AMONG
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
And Members of the Lawn Care Industry
REGARDING
The Healthy Lawns and Healthy Environment Initiative:
Reducing Nutrient Losses from Lawns through a Public-Private Stewardship Partnership

## 2006 Michigan Fertilizer Tonnage

| Category | Product type/use pattern | 2006 Tons sold* |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| Non-Farm | Lawns, gardens, golf, professional turf, nursery, <br> greenhouse, landscape, potting soils w/ fertilizer | 250,342 |
| Farm | Agricultural Use | $1,194.681$ |

* Michigan Department of Agriculture

| Scotts Lawn Fertilizer Tonnage 2006 |
| :--- |
| 22,570 tons |
| $\mathbf{1 . 5 6 \%}$ of Total Michigan Fertilizer use |

Scotts > 50\% Market Share
Level of detail captured in state reporting can influence decision making


## U.S. Fertilizer Market

| Industry |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Segment | Tons of <br> Fertilizer <br> (Millions) | \% of USA <br> Total <br> Fertilizer |
| USA Total | 58 | 100 |
| USA <br> Agriculture | 57 | $>98$ |
| D.I.Y. <br>  <br> Garden | 1 | $<2 \%$ |

## Home Lawn Care

Number of Home Lawns (millions)



## Provide Products "Designed for Turf"

"All Purpose" type fertilizers deliver multiple years of phosphorus (3-6 yrs) in a single application. Turf fertilizers apply appropriate maintenance levels .


Coverage
Net Weight (lbs)
Analysis
Lb P2O5/1,000


5,000 Sq. Ft.
42.50

6-2-0
0.34-0.51


5,000 Sq. Ft. 40.00

10-10-10
0.80
12.9

## Phosphorus Stewardship

## Three Principles

## 1. Use products designed for turf

$>$ Not to exceed 0.25 lb P2O5/1,000 sq ft/application
2. Apply at turf maintenance rates
> Not to exceed 0.50 lb P2O5/1,000 sq ft/year
3. Follow best management practices
$>$ Use label rates
$>$ Keep off hard surfaces (sidewalk, street)

## Phosphorus Fertilizers Current State to Future State

(Over 70\% Reduction in Phosphorus Inputs)



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## HEALTHY LAWNS 8. CLEAN WATER: You Can Make a Difference.

A healthy lawn prevents erosion, filters pollution, recharges groundwater, and cools our environment. Feeding your lawn with fertilizer keeps lawns healthy, but fertilization must be done properly to prevent potential harm to our waterways. Over fertilization can harm grass, and pollute water.

## THERE ARE TWO WAYS YOU CAN HELP PROTECT NEW JERSEY'S WATERWAYS AND KEEP YOUR LAWNS HEALTHY: <br> 1. Select a low or no phosphorus fertilizer designed for lawns. <br> 2. Apply it to your lawn properly.

## FOLLOW THESE LAWN CARE BEST PRACTICES TO DO YOUR PART TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF NEW JERSEY'S WATER:

1. Choose a low or no phosphorus fertilizer. Check the second number on the package formula, 26-0-3, for example, means no phosphate.


Bags of laun fertilizer have 3 numbers on them (Example 26-0-3) Find the phosphorus percent by looking at the midde number. A "zero in the middle" means no phosphorus, a 2 or 3 in the middle means low phosphorus.

2. Choose a fertilizer designed for lawns. It the product does not say "Lawn" on the label or list a spreader setting or a spreader type, it should not be used on home lawns. Avoid use of "All-Purpose" type fertilizer products on your lawn.
3. Read and follow fertilizer label directions. Apply fertilizer at the correct spreader setting shown on the bag. Over ferilization can harm your lawn and the ervironment.
4. Use a drop spreader or a rotary spreader with a deflector shield to keep fertilizer on the lawn. Keep fertilizer off walks, driveways, and roadways where it can be washed into storm sewers.
5. Mow your lawn at a high or the highest mower setting and leave the grass clippings on your lawn. Mowing high allows the grass to develop a deep root system that retains and uses water more efficiently. Returring clippings to the lawn recycles nutrients and moisture back into the soil.
6. Fertilize in the spring after the first lawn cutting and once again in the fall between Labor Day and Halloween. Only apply fertilizer when your grass is growing enough to be mowed. Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn, for a healthier, greener lawn next spring.
7. Following application, return any unused product to the original bag for future use.

