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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