

NEW LAW DISCOURAGES FERTILIZER WITH PHOSPHORUS NEAR LAKES

(from Sunday, May 4, 2008, by Jody Goodwin)

A new law went into effect Jan. 1 that discourages the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus near lakes and streams. Rather than banning it outright, the law seeks to educate people about phosphorus and its negative effects on waters. When buying fertilizers, you will notice posted signs explaining the new law and why phosphorus can be so damaging to the environment. TLIA was instrumental in helping enact this law...Linda Laskey and Babs Shapiro went to the State House last fall when environmentalists presented evidence that too much phosphorus, carried into lakes and streams via runoff, made them turn green.

Overall, Maine soils are rich in phosphorus, so adding more in most situations is simply not necessary. Second, organic fertilizers are much better for your lawns and gardens. They are much lower in phosphorus, and the phosphorus they contain comes naturally in the product as opposed to being chemically added. Plants grown with compost and/or manure are much healthier and less prone to disease and insect infestation than plants with chemicals.

When you buy products such as bagged compost, manure or fertilizer, there are three numbers on the front. The first number indicates the amount of nitrogen in the product, the second indicates phosphorus, and the last is potash. So let's think about our lake when we buy products this gardening season and look for ones that have a 0 in the middle. If each of us makes a dent in our phosphorus use, it could add up to a big change in the health of our water.

HAPPY OCCASIONS

We offer many good wishes to Ed Hinkley and Lois Cole on their upcoming marriage in August.

Happy 50th Anniversaries to Babs and Mike Shapiro and Claudie and Ron Getchell--both married in June of 1958.

FYI

Our new Poland Town Manager will be the guest speaker at our TLIA Annual Meeting on July 12th. Please try to attend.

APPRECIATION

Many thanks to our advertisers! Without their commitment it would be difficult to produce this newsletter. Please think of them when you need a certain something or other. They are great people with much to offer.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy is extended to family and friends whose loved ones passed on this past winter and spring.

Lidy Barkhouse, 93, the mother of our newsletter publisher, Trudy Haines, on March 25, 2008, at her home in Upper Burlington (Nova Scotia). She enjoyed a long and active life, and will be remembered for her charisma, charm, hard work, and sense of devotion. She loved her family, her Creator, her gardens and birds, and the Bible. She was artistic, creative, and noted for her outstanding penmanship and delicious apple pies.

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