

## Delaware Livable Lawns

### This program will:

- ✓ Recognize you for using environmentally-friendly methods that go beyond current requirements.
- ✓ Provide free marketing for your company.
- ✓ Attract customers who have a concern for the environment and value your expertise.

### This program will not:

- ⊗ Cost you anything.
- ⊗ Tell you how to manage your business or suggest additional fees to charge.
- ⊗ Weigh you down with excessive reporting requirements.

## Who Will Administer the Delaware Livable Lawns Program?

The Delaware Livable Lawns Program will be administered by the Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association (DNLA), a leader in Delaware's \$745 million Green Industry. The DNLA is a non-profit trade organization serving Delaware's horticultural related businesses and the companies that supply them. The DNLA's mission is to advance the common interests of its members and to promote the use, and enhance the quality, of the products and skills of the green industry. The DNLA also works in cooperation with the Delaware Department of Agriculture and Delaware Cooperative Extension to shape legislative and administrative policies and procedures on matters that are of interest to Delaware's Green Industry.

The Delaware Livable Lawns Program Advisory Group includes:

- Delaware Department of Transportation
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
- Delaware Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Commission
- New Castle Conservation District
- New Castle County
- US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration Water Resources Agency
- University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
- Delaware Grounds Management Association
- Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association
- Delaware Nature Society
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

The Advisory Group thanks DeIDOT for providing initial funding for the Delaware Livable Lawns Program.



## Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association

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## Delaware Livable Lawns Certification Program

“Healthy Lawns, Healthy Waters”



Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association



## What is the Delaware Livable Lawns Program?

The Livable Lawns Program certifies lawn care companies that follow environmentally-friendly practices in fertilizer application while educating homeowners. A certified company will be able to use the Livable Lawns logo and benefit from a

## What is the Goal of the Delaware Livable Lawns Program?

The goal of the program is to reduce fertilizer runoff from residential lawns.

## How will the Delaware Livable Lawns Program achieve its goal?

While many homeowners may be unaware of how, when, and how much fertilizer to apply, professional lawn care staff have the expertise to fertilize lawns correctly. Certified Livable Lawns companies go a step beyond the current regulations that govern fertilizer use by following environmentally-friendly practices resulting in healthy lawns and healthy water.

## What Benefits will Your Company Gain from Certification?

- **Cost savings** from applying less fertilizer.
- **Recognition** of your expertise with environmentally-friendly lawn care methods.
- **Free listing** in state directory, program website, and other publications
- **Free program advertising** (newspaper and improved internet search ranking)
- **Complimentary use of the program logo** in your own marketing materials.
- **Free leave behind educational materials.**

## Requirements for Certification:

- Keep fertilizer and grass clippings off any impervious surfaces.
- Leave behind educational lawn care material.
- For all new accounts, test the soil for phosphorus, potassium, and pH prior to application.
- For established accounts, test the soil once every two years to determine the specific needs of the lawn.
- Apply nutrients based on the guidelines given in the table on the next page.
- Calibrate spreaders for correct application rates and record the pounds of nutrients applied to each lawn.
- Be a certified Nutrient Management Handler

## Additional Program Recommendations:

- Provide residents with copies of their soil tests.
- Seed with turf-type tall fescue.
- Use slow release fertilizers.

## Reporting and Tracking:

Delaware Livable Lawns companies will submit the following once per year to the Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association:

- Business name, address, and contact information.
- Total number of customers your company serves and total number of new customers gained each year.
- Total area of lawns maintained.
- Total nitrogen applied to lawns, broken down by month of application.
- If applications vary from recommended timing, provide an explanation.

All certified companies will be required to keep all soil test results and application information for 3 years to be randomly audited.

Turfgrass Species	Max amt of nitrogen allowed over entire year	Recommended Application Rates and Timings when using fertilizer containing less than 35% SAN (Slowly Available Nitrogen)	Recommended Application Rates and Timings when using fertilizer containing more than 35% SAN (Slowly Available Nitrogen)
Cool Season Grasses (e.g., Tall Fescue, Perennial Rye, Fine Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass)	3 lbs/1000 sq ft	March or April: 0.5 lbs/1000 sq ft Sept: 1 lb/1000 sq ft Oct: 1 lb/1000 sq ft Nov: 0.5 lb/1000 sq ft	August: 1.5 lbs/1000 sq ft October: 1.5 lbs/1000 sq ft
Warm Season Grasses (e.g., Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass)	3 lbs/1000 sq ft	May: 1 lb/1000 sq ft June: 1 lb/1000 sq ft July or August: 1 lb/1000 sq ft	May: 1.5 lbs/1000 sq ft July: 1.5 lbs/1000 sq ft

**Limitation On Use of Phosphorus:** If soil test results show phosphorus levels above optimum, do not apply phosphorus. If phosphorus is recommended by a soil test, apply no more than 1 lb/1000 sq ft per application.  
**Summer Application Restrictions:** Fertilizer application is prohibited on cool season grasses between June 16 and August 14.  
**Cold Weather Application Restrictions:** Fertilizer application is prohibited between December 7 and February 15.