

## The NEW City of Orchard Lake Fertilizer Ordinance

The City Council of Orchard Lake passed a progressive, eco-friendly, new lawn fertilization ordinance at its January 22, 2013 meeting. This not only follows the State of Michigan legislation excluding phosphorous from lawn fertilizers (except in special circumstances), but also regulates the type of nitrogen in fertilizers, and has provisions to protect our water table.

The new Ordinance will be on the City's web page in its entirety under Section 12.09—look for City Ordinances when you go to "Links." Fertilization contractors who service our homes will be licensed by the City as well as the State of Michigan and will know the regulations. The City Clerk maintains a list of licensed contractors.

However, here's a simple summary for homeowners who want to know what questions to ask their contractors to ensure proper compliance with the Ordinance, or wish to do their own lawn fertilization:

1. All fertilizers have a three number identification system. The first number is nitrogen content, the second phosphorous, and the third potassium. Nitrogen content is there to help you calculate how much of the fertilizer you can put down in one season (the formula is in the new Ordinance, but feel free to call the City for help with the calculations—just have the nitrogen number from the fertilizer's label and your lawn's square footage). The second number, phosphorous content, should be zero (except under very special circumstances—refer to the new Ordinance). The third number, potassium, is not regulated by State law or City ordinance.
2. At least 15% of the nitrogen content must be in slow-release form, also known as water-insoluble. In almost all instances, slow-release nitrogen is in a pellet form mixed in with granular fertilizer. Thus, it is extremely unlikely you will find liquid spray fertilizers with slow-release nitrogen and these products are best avoided.
3. Never apply lawn fertilizer where the ground is frozen or there is standing water. Clean off non-lawn services immediately after application. Also, never apply fertilizer within 35 feet of any wetland or watercourse, and never in a body of water.
4. Lastly, once fertilizer is misused, it gets into our lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, and water supply. This can have long-lasting and harmful effects. The new Ordinance has penalties to contractors and homeowners for failures to abide by the Ordinance. So, if you ever have questions about any aspect of lawn fertilization, before you fertilize call the City and you will receive a prompt response.

For a Healthy Lawn Educational Video, please  
visit

[www.CityofOrchardLake.com/News](http://www.CityofOrchardLake.com/News)

Or

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Osgf4S-dqqU&feature=youtu.be>



## Household Hazardous Waste Event

Orchard Lake residents will be entitled to participate in the West Bloomfield Household Hazardous Waste Disposal event on **Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 9AM to 2PM** at West Bloomfield Civic Center off Walnut Lake Road west of Orchard Lake Rd.



Please try to organize with your neighbors as the cost to the City is \$50.00 per car. For more information on the type of waste collected, please contact information hotline at (248) 451-4834.

## New Orchard Lake Aquatic Advisory Board

The City Council recently passed a resolution creating an Aquatic Advisory Board for the Orchard Lake Special Assessment District. The five member board will study and help the City manage all the areas related to the special assessment district, which include Lake Weed management, Canada geese control, and Sheriff Patrol of the waters of Orchard Lake. Also, the board will pursue an ongoing educational program for the homeowners in the special assessment district to help ensure continued water quality.

The members of the new Aquatic Advisory Board were appointed to three year terms on 3/18/13. They are Councilman **Jason Silver**, long-time advocates of Orchard Lake: **Peter Russ**, **Fred Neuman**, **Patty Backus**, and **Leon Pedell**.

One of the first things the board will be doing is updating the Special Assessment District roll. By emailing one of the email addresses below, you will allow us to update the contact information so we can notify homeowners of important meetings and also poll members about any proposed changes to the Special Assessment District.

[pattybackus@yahoo.com](mailto:pattybackus@yahoo.com) [Lp\\_mdpc@comcast.net](mailto:Lp_mdpc@comcast.net)  
[fneuman886@aol.com](mailto:fneuman886@aol.com) [peteriruss@gmail.com](mailto:peteriruss@gmail.com)

Special thanks to **Bud Tishkowski**, who devoted many years and much time to the management of Orchard Lake through his efforts with the properties owners association. Although he's not a board member, we are certain he'll continue to help us monitor lake weed harvesting, his special area of expertise. Also, thanks to: David Bradbury, whose elegant research on phosphorous and nitrogen in the lake decades ago still speaks for biomass removal by annual weed harvesting; Doug and Warren Boos, and Bill Wilson for their past efforts at keeping our "natural gem" so beautiful.

Finally, please go over all the information in this newsletter about lawn care and fertilization. A healthy lake environment starts with how we treat our lawn and gardens.