



NITROGEN FERTILIZER RESTRICTIONS ***OPPOSE S2130 (KAMINSKY)/ A4568 (ENGLEBRIGHT)***

BACKGROUND

S2130 (Kaminsky)/ A4568 (Englebright) is an act to amend the environmental conservation law to limit the sale and use of nitrogen fertilizer on Long Island to no greater than 12% nitrogen by weight in analysis of which 50% must be water insoluble nitrogen. If passed these bills then call for an evaluation conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) of high nitrogen fertilizer sales and use throughout New York State.

NYSTA PERSPECTIVE

Fertilizer stakeholders throughout Long Island have been working with the NYSDEC, the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) Commission and environmental advocacy groups for the last two years to develop science-based fertilizer recommendations that would be far more impactful and meaningful in protecting Long Island's water than the proposed bag analysis legislation.

The proposed legislation will not remedy pollution in our drinking water. The only results from limiting bag analysis will be increased trucking of fertilizer onto Long Island, more total fertilizer applied to achieve recommended rates and greater pollution from empty bags in our landfills. These bills do not address how to best achieve the goal we are all working towards - cleaner water. Imagine the impact on our roadways and landfills if the legislation is adopted statewide.

Where is the science behind 12% and how does this reduce nitrogen pollution from fertilizer? Again, the result remains the same, people will simply apply more to achieve the same effect. How does diluting fertilizer with limestone filler accomplish anything of environmental value? Decisions on nitrogen use need to be made based on turfgrass varieties, soil fertility levels and soil textures, not on politics or public opinion.

Industry has been asked to work with LINAP and stakeholders from both sides to develop sensible, science based recommendations. For the last two years LINAP has been developing nitrogen recommendations that may be the strictest restrictions in the country. The recommendations include annual amounts of nitrogen that can be applied, rates of application, consumer education, and bag labeling. The Long Island Golf Course

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Superintendents Association (LIGCSA) developed golf turf recommendations for inclusion in the LINAP guidance using the Best Management Practices for New York State Golf Courses (<http://nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu/>). This web based resource and outreach education program was developed in partnership with Cornell University.

RECOMMENDATION

- Oppose S2130 (Kaminsky)/ A4568 (Englebright)
- Continue discussion with LINAP and the DEC to develop reasonable, science based fertilizer recommendations for Long Island.

OPPOSE