

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REGULATION



Agriculture

*Preserving and protecting
our province's water*

Other publications in the
Nutrient Management
Regulation series:

- Golf Courses and
Driving Ranges
- Municipalities
- Urban Areas/Rural
Residential Areas/
Cottages

Preserving and protecting our province's water is a high priority for the Manitoba government. That is why a new Nutrient Management Regulation has been passed under *The Water Protection Act*. This brochure provides information about the regulation and how it may affect agricultural operations. The Nutrient Management Regulation also applies equally to golf courses and driving ranges, municipalities, and urban and rural residential properties.

The Nitrogen and Phosphorus Problem

Increased nitrogen and phosphorus in Manitoba's waterways is the single, largest water quality challenge in our province.

High levels of nitrogen and phosphorus increase production of algae and aquatic plants. This causes many serious problems, including:

- changes to aquatic life habitat
- reduced levels of oxygen
- increased clogging of fishers' commercial nets
- increased taste and odour problems in drinking water

In addition, some forms of algae can produce dangerous toxins.

Manitoba Takes Action

To help protect Lake Winnipeg, the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board was formed in 2003. The board's report *Reducing Nutrient Loading to Lake Winnipeg and its Watershed — Our Collective Responsibility and Commitment to Action* was released in February 2007. It provided 135 recommendations that will help reduce nutrients in Lake Winnipeg. This regulation will assist in implementing a number of these recommendations.

Protecting Manitoba's Water

The Nutrient Management Regulation is one of numerous initiatives aimed at reducing nutrients in Manitoba waters. The purpose of the regulation is to protect water quality by:

- encouraging responsible nutrient management planning
- regulating the application of material containing nutrients
- restricting the development of certain types of facilities in environmentally sensitive areas



Complying with the Regulation

Compliance with the regulation can be achieved by not exceeding the nitrate-nitrogen limits and phosphorus application rates or by registering a Nutrient Management Plan with Manitoba Water Stewardship.

Nutrient Management Zones

The regulation limits, or prohibits, the application of substances containing nitrogen or phosphorus in various Nutrient Management Zones. Zones are based on agriculture capability. For more information on agriculture capability, go to view the maps at: geoapp2.gov.mb.ca/website/mafri/index3.html

Nutrient Buffer Zones

Help protect Manitoba's vulnerable waters by not applying any type of fertilizer:

- within three metres of rivers, streams, creeks, wetlands and storm water retention ponds
- within 15 metres from lakes, reservoirs, springs and wells
- within 15 metres of vulnerable rivers such as the Assiniboine or Red Rivers
- within 30 metres of vulnerable lakes such as Lake Winnipeg or Killarney Lake

Nutrient Management Plans

Agriculture operations may be required to register a Nutrient Management Plan. To help, templates have been developed in consultation with Keystone Agricultural Producers, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Manitoba Conservation. Templates are available for:

- livestock manure or livestock operations with less than 300 animal units
- synthetic fertilizer
- municipal wastewater sludge or biosolids

Land included in an existing Manure Management Plan submitted to Manitoba Conservation does not need to be included in a Nutrient Management Plan submitted to Manitoba Water Stewardship.



For More Information

The Nutrient Management Regulation can be found at: manitoba.ca/waterstewardship/wqmz/index.html

You may also contact:

Manitoba Water Stewardship

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