



801 E. Sangamon Ave
Springfield, IL 62794

Phone 309-212-0047

www.illinoisnrec.org

Facebook.com/IllinoisNREC

Twitter.com/IllinoisNREC

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CONTACT:

Julie Armstrong, NREC Executive
Director

ILLINOIS LAWN CARE PROFESSIONALS HAVE A NEW RESOURCE FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The new “*Nutrient Management Practices for Illinois Lawn Care Professionals*” Guidebook incorporates the most recent research and information to educate green industry professionals on the best turfgrass nutrient management practices which optimize nutrient inputs, protect the environment, adhere to state application regulations, and maintain turfgrass quality and performance.

With funding from the Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC), Dr. David Kopsell from Illinois State University and Dr. Thomas Voight with the University of Illinois compiled the guide which will be widely distributed to green industry turfgrass professionals across the state. It will serve as the most current resource for issues such as nutrient requirements, behavior of nutrients in turfgrass soils, turfgrass fertility impact on pests and diseases, proper usage of application equipment and up-to-date information on Illinois laws and regulations affecting nutrient applications to residential and commercial turfgrass. “We are very excited about this guide and see it as a valuable tool for our

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industry,” said Mark Utendorf, Past President of the Illinois Professional Lawn Care Association and current chairman of their Regulatory Committee. “It is important for our industry to demonstrate a commitment to the efficient use of fertilizers which maximize customer satisfaction and minimize environmental impact. The guide provides the resources needed for us to accomplish this.”

As defined in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Illinois has a target of reducing nitrogen (N) losses by 410 million pounds and P losses by 38 million pounds by 2025, and turfgrass industry professionals can help achieve these goals through increased nutrient management education. NREC’s investment in this research helps to support the collaboration across the agricultural industry, environmental groups and related stakeholders.

The guide is also available for download from the Illinois NREC website at www.illinoisnrec.org.

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The Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC) was created by state statute in 2012. Funded by a 75-cent per ton assessment on bulk fertilizer sold in Illinois, NREC provides financial support for nutrient research and education programs to ensure the discovery and adoption of practices that address environmental concerns, optimize nutrient use efficiency, and ensure soil fertility.

A 13-member NREC Council annually solicits, reviews and funds projects that fulfill the organization’s mission. More information can be found at www.illinoisnrec.org.