

## The Duxbury Landscaper Pledge

We, [insert company name], as a professional landscaping company committed to preserving the health of Duxbury Bay and its surrounding environment, we pledge to follow best practices for fertilizer application with the goal to minimize nitrogen runoff and protect water quality. We understand adhering to these principles, we contribute to the well-being of the Duxbury community and the delicate ecosystems that rely on clean water.

### Our Commitments

#### 1. Precision Application:

- We will apply fertilizers only when necessary and in the right amounts. Excessive fertilization can lead to nutrient runoff.
- We'll follow soil test recommendations to determine the specific needs of each lawn.

#### 2. Slow-Release Formulas:

- We'll prioritize slow-release fertilizers. These formulations release nutrients gradually, reducing the risk of runoff.
- Quick-release fertilizers will be used sparingly and strategically.

#### 3. Timing Matters:

- We'll avoid fertilizing during heavy rain or before storms. Rain can wash nutrients into water bodies.
- Spring and fall are optimal seasons for fertilizer application.

#### 4. Buffer Zones:

- We'll maintain buffer zones along water bodies, leaving a strip of natural vegetation between lawns and water.
- These buffers help filter runoff and prevent direct nutrient entry into Duxbury Bay.

#### 5. No or Low Phosphorus on Established Lawns:

- We'll refrain from applying phosphorus-containing fertilizers to established lawns unless soil tests indicate a deficiency.
- Phosphorus runoff contributes to algal blooms.

#### 6. Educating Clients:

- We'll educate our clients about responsible fertilizer use and the importance of water quality.
- Encourage homeowners to follow similar practices.

#### 7. Record Keeping:

- We'll maintain records of fertilizer applications, including dates, amounts, and locations.
- This helps track our impact and ensures compliance with regulations.

By taking this pledge, we [insert company name], as a landscaping company servicing Duxbury businesses and/or residences, hereby demonstrate our commitment to protect Duxbury Bay and our water supply, doing our part to nurture our environment for future generations.

Visit <https://duxburywaterquality.org/duxbury-landscaper-pledge/> to sign this pledge electronically and promote your commitment.