

Press Release

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Ditch Those Water-Polluting Lawn Fertilizers say Environmental Groups

Some popular lawn products contain "forever" chemicals and high levels of water-polluting nitrogen

(Port Washington, NY) A coalition of Long Island environmental organizations is today releasing a public education campaign designed to inform consumers about lawn fertilizers that increase contamination of ground and surface waters. Under the banner LIWater.org, the groups are releasing social media videos asking consumers, landscape contractors and home and garden retailers to use only products that will protect, not pollute, our water.

"We've known for a while that high levels of water soluble nitrogen, like those found in some of the most popular lawn products, are polluting our water," says Doug Wood, Associate Director of Grassroots Environmental Education, which is leading the coalition. "But we didn't know about the contamination of those same products with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS] - the highly toxic chemicals that are being linked with serious harm to human health.

A recent report by the non-profit Eco-Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, identified several types of PFAS in lawn fertilizers containing biosolids from municipal solid waste. PFAS, which is toxic even in small amounts, is apparently also used in the manufacturing of some "slow-release" fertilizers, and escapes into the environment when the plastic coating breaks down.

"Fixing our excess nitrogen problems and keeping PFAS out of our water isn't going to be easy, but changing the kind of fertilizer we use on our lawn *is* easy!" said Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "A green lawn doesn't have to lead to polluted bays. The public needs safer choices for their fertilizers and I have faith that homeowners around Long Island will use the safer products to help us protect our ground and surface water."

The good news, according to LIWater.org, is that there are plenty of products that don't contain either high levels of nitrogen (above 12%) or any amount of PFAS. A list of those

products can be found on the coalition's website. The campaign includes social media videos, pamphlets, and other materials, all available free.

Organizations supporting the LI Water campaign include Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Concerned Citizens of Montauk, CRESLI, Defend H2O, Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt, Food & Water Watch, Group for the East End, Peconic Baykeeper, the Perfect Earth Project, North Fork Environmental Council, North Shore Audubon, the Open Space Council, Operation Splash, the Pine Barrens Society, Save the Great South Bay, Seatuck Environmental Center, Setauket Harbor Task Force, and Sierra Club Long Island.

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See videos and more graphics at www.liwater.org/materials

Are you spreading PFAS chemicals along with your lawn fertilizer?



Find lawn fertilizers that won't pollute
our environment at LIWater.org

