

NUTRIENT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. This document addresses (1) **Setbacks for Nutrient Application**, (2) **Application Timing for all nutrients, organic and chemical**, and (3) **Temporary Field Stockpiling (staging) of Organic Materials**. Application of nutrients may vary depending on the crop, season, nutrient source, and weather conditions. A person applying nutrients shall use best management practices, including following these “Nutrient Application Requirements,” to maximize plant utilization efficiency as described in Section I-B of the *Maryland Nutrient Management Manual*, and minimize the potential for nutrient movement to sensitive areas and losses to surrounding water bodies, including surface and groundwater.
- B. This document does not supersede Maryland Department of the Environment Animal Feeding Operations regulations in COMAR 26.08.01 and 26.08.03.09, or the Maryland Department of the Environment Sewage Sludge Management regulations in COMAR 26.04.06 regarding the requirements for sewage sludge storage, buffer zones, and the incorporation of sewage sludge into the soil by the end of each working day.
- C. All materials that provide primary crop nutrients shall be included in, and managed by, a Nutrient Management Plan. These materials include chemical fertilizer, organic materials such as animal manure, sewage sludge, food processing wastes/residuals, spray irrigation from wastewater treatment plants, other waste streams containing nutrients, and soil conditioners/amendments.
- D. These Nutrient Application Requirements shall be followed by certified consultants in the development of nutrient management plans, and by operators and applicators during plan implementation in order to comply with COMAR 15.20.08.05H and .05I

II. SETBACKS FOR NUTRIENT APPLICATION

- A. “Nutrient Application Setback” means a vegetated area of a prescribed width where nutrient-containing material may not be applied, as measured from the edge of surface water, including perennial and intermittent streams. An intermittent stream means a stream or the reach of a stream that is below the local water table for at least some part of the year, and obtains its flow from both surface runoff and ground water discharge. Surface water does not include:
 1. Ephemeral streams (defined as streams which flow only in direct response to precipitation in the immediate watershed and which have a channel bottom that is always above the local water table);
 2. Irrigation and treatment ditches, as defined under “waters” in COMAR 15.20.08.03(B)(39), and