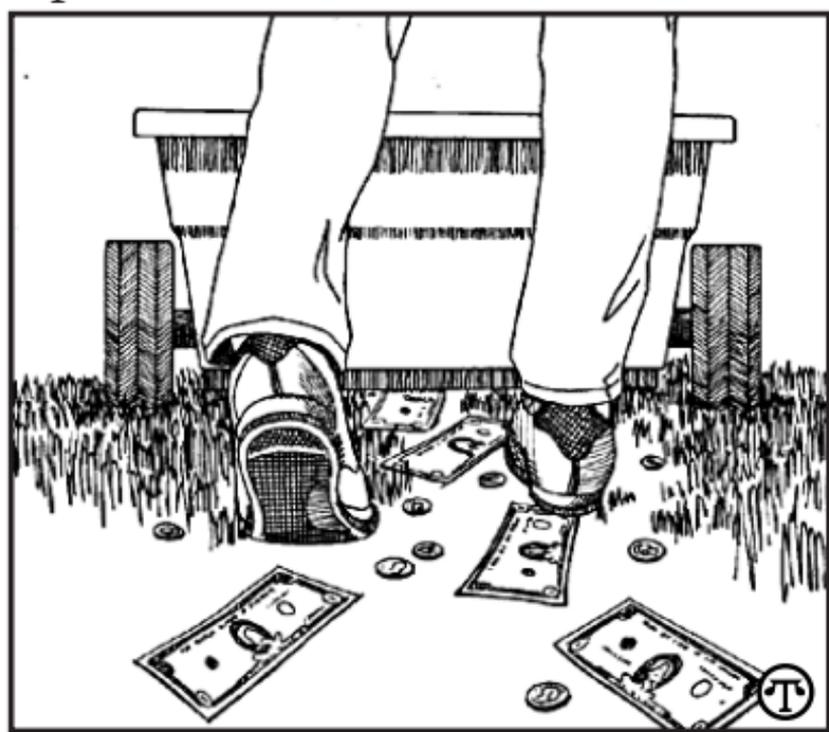


HYOUR LAWN

Fertilizer Isn't Always What Lawns Need

(NAPSA)—Most homeowners know that fertilizer can improve the appearance of their lawns. But surprisingly, fertilizer isn't always the best thing for a lawn.

That's because fertilizers can increase the acidity of soil. A healthy lawn should have a pH of 6.5 to 6.9, or close to neutral. If the soil is already too acidic—due to natural soil conditions, acid rain or glass clippings—fertilizer can actually make matters worse, through a process called nitrification.



Fertilizing an acid lawn can be a waste of money.

An effective way to neutralize acid in the soil is the application of lawn lime. This natural substance also adds calcium and magnesium, which are essential for healthy root growth. Lime helps lawns resist insects, fungus and drought damage. Lawn lime is often applied in the spring, but it offers long-term benefits and can be used in any season.

Lawn lime is available from brand names such as YardRight, Correct and Easy Spread. It comes in three basic forms: pulverized for gardens, granular for lawns, and fast-acting, dust-free limestone pellets. Lawn lime products are available at most lawn and garden centers, home centers and hardware stores. For more information call 1-800-526-1753.