VT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

FACT SHEET

**Fertilizer, Pesticide, and Herbicide Application**

Nutrient runoff pollution is one of the most severe problems facing local waterways. Runoff that carries excess nutrients increases the growth of algae, which stresses underwater plant and animal life. This fact sheet outlines the best management practices for fertilizer and pesticide application.

**Best Management Practices:**

* Use products only as directed. Follow all labels and instructions.
* Provide cleanup supplies near designated maintenance areas to facilitate immediate cleanup. Use dry cleanup methods (e.g., rag, damp rags, and absorbent materials) rather than hosing down the area to prevent discharge to storm drains.
* Avoid application over impervious surfaces; sweep granular fertilizer back onto the grass to prevent it from washing into the storm sewer system.
* Do not apply herbicides, fertilizers, or pesticides to bare or eroding soil.
* Do not apply herbicides, fertilizers, or pesticides near open waters such as streams and creeks unless the product is specifically designed for use in shoreline or aquatic environments.
* Never apply chemicals before a predicted rainfall event, during periods of high wind speeds or within close proximity to surface water.
* Select the least toxic products available to minimize waste and chemical exposure to the applicator.
* Inspect, maintain, and calibrate equipment used for mixing and application.
* Ensure that all containers are watertight after each individual use.
* Do not prepare herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers for application near storm drains.
* Never apply chemicals directly to water.

**Nutrient Management Plans:**

The University has a number of nutrient management plans that govern how nutrients are applied to the soil. These nutrient management plans cover the application of manure and fertilizer to agricultural areas as well as the application of fertilizer to non-agricultural areas.

 **Guidelines:**

Virginia Tech shall implement nutrient management plans that have been developed by a certified nutrient management planner in accordance with §10.1-104.2 of the Code of

Virginia on all lands owned or operated by the MS4 operator where nutrients are applied to a contiguous area greater than one acre.

**NOTE:**

**Follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the use, storage, and disposal of fertilizers and pesticides and training of applicators and pest control advisors.**

**If you encounter any spills or leaks, contact Environmental Health and Safety at (540) 231-3600.**