

NORWICH STANDS FOR BETTER STORMWATER.

A PROBLEM CALLED HYPOXIA

Did you know when it rains millions of gallons of rain carried by pavement, pipes, brooks and unpaved surfaces end up in our lakes and rivers? Anything that carries storm water, whether roads, swales, pipes or brooks all eventually drain to our rivers and ponds. In a perfect world when it rains most of the water would go into the ground, however in our modern world due to excessive amounts of impervious surface runoff carries dust, garbage, oil and gas spills, pet waste and pesticide to our lakes and rivers. This is called non-point pollution. The rivers in Connecticut carry storm runoff to Long Island sound. Non-point Nitrogen pollution is the major cause of dead zones or hypoxia in lakes and rivers. Hypoxia is caused by an excessive amount of Nitrogen in the water causing a lack of oxygen. A lack of oxygen causes die-off of fish and other aquatic life. According to the NEMO Website, Federal and State programs have long focused on reducing nitrogen from point source discharges, like wastewater treatment plants, as a primary strategy to combat hypoxia in Long Island Sound. However, recent research indicates that non-point sources of nitrogen are largely responsible for degrading the water quality of coastal areas and are a significant source of excess nitrogen to Long Island Sound in general. This means local actions play a major part of reducing the amount of nitrogen pollution in our waterbodies.

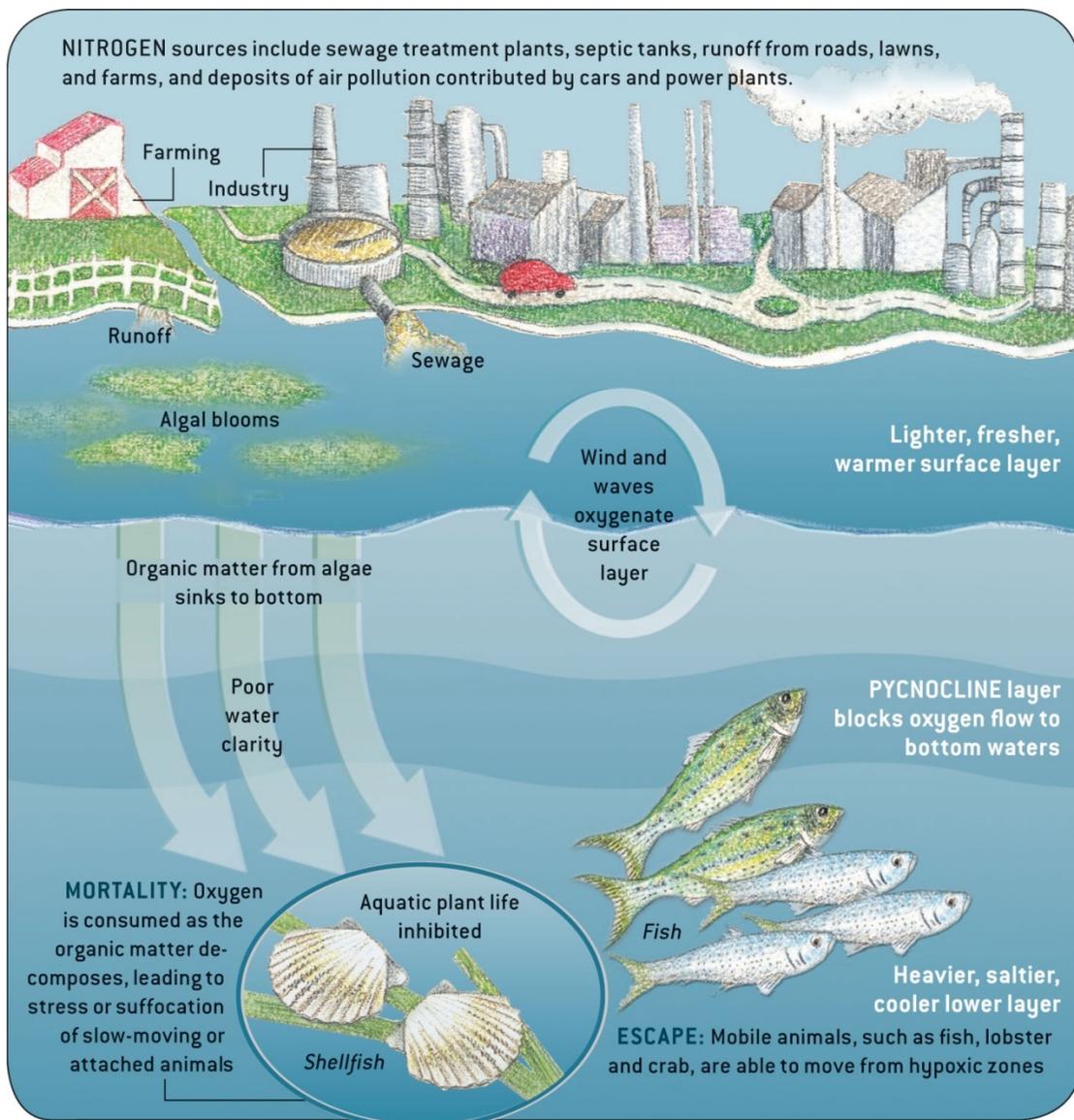


WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Storm water runoff from lawn fertilization is one source of Nitrogen pollution which happens to be the pollutant of concern in Norwich. By taking some of the following actions in your yard, you can help to improve the quality of our storm water.

- Do not fertilize a lawn if it is not necessary.
- Mulch your grass and mow as high as can be tolerated, at least 3 inches. This practice can reduce nitrogen needs and your fertilizer cost by 50%.
- Test your soil to determine if fertilization is needed.
- If you are planting a new lawn or reseeding, choose grasses such as fescues that require less nutrient and water inputs.
- If a soil test shows that Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) are adequate, only apply nitrogen fertilizer. Applying more than what is called for wastes your money , adds to pollution and does not make your lawn healthier.
- If you decide to fertilize remember that slow release fertilizers are better than soluble, fast release formulations.
- Avoid using combinations that include both fertilizers and pesticides. You may be over applying harmful pesticides when they are not really needed.
- If added nitrogen fertilizer, set a target maximum rate of one half (Or Less) of the bag recommendation with an annual application rate of 3.25 lbs of total nitrogen for every 1000 square feet. Less fertilizer should be applied if you live near and environmentally sensitive area such as next to a wetland or waterbody.
- Do not apply fertilizer before spring greenup or after October 15.
- Do not apply any fertilizer if major rain is expected within 48 hours. Excess fertilizer can wash off into the stormwater system which leads to local streams.
- Do not apply any fertilizer or pesticide to turf that borders a waterbody.

- If property borders a lake, pond or a river, leave a buffer of unfertilized grasses or other vegetation of at least 20 feet.
- Apply fertilizer carefully so that excess doesn't land on hard surfaces like sidewalks and driveways. The next rain event will wash the fertilizer into the storm System where it will be discharged to the nearest waterbody.



REMEMBER THE DRAIN IS FOR THE RAIN, NOTHING SHOULD GO INTO THE CITY STORM DRAINS BUT STORMWATER.

**TOGETHER WE WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR
STORMWATER AND PROTECT THE FUTURE OF THE
SOUND**



Some of the information came from UConn NEMO website, from Guillard ,K. 2008. New England Regional Nitrogen and phosphorus Fertilizer and Associated Management Practice Recommendations for Lawns Based on Water Quality Considerations.