



## Why Fertilise Wise?

### River health, human health

**Our river systems and many wetlands** are in a poor state of health, judging by the undesirable and sometimes **toxic algal blooms** that occur regularly during warmer months. Although algae are plants that grow naturally in our rivers and wetlands, when they bloom, they are unsightly and foul smelling, prevent recreational use of the river, can be toxic to humans and animals, and kill aquatic fauna by starving them of oxygen.

High levels of **phosphorus and nitrogen** in our river systems and wetlands promote the growth of problem algae. Lawn and garden fertilisers are one of the largest threats as these nutrients added to our sandy soils are easily leached.

**You** can reduce the amount of nutrients you contribute to waterways by being **Fertilise Wise**.

## How You Can Help

### Fertilise Wise

**You can help improve the health of our waterways and other ecosystems by:**

- Minimising lawn areas - they require a lot of fertiliser and water.
- Improving your soil with organic matter and soil amendments including spongolite, zeolite, bentonite clay (for sandy soils only) and gypsum (for dispersive clays only) - they grab hold of water and nutrients and keep them in your soil. [Click here for more soil improver information.](#)

- Try fertilising only when symptoms of nutrient deficiency occur eg. yellowing
- Using Fertilise Wise endorsed complete fertilisers - they are rigorously tested.
- Otherwise use a complete lawn fertiliser containing a Nitrogen: Phosphorus: Potassium (N:P:K) ratio of 10:1:6.
- Look for fertilisers that also contain other nutrients such as sulphur (S), magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca) and the trace elements copper (Cu), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), boron (B), zinc (Zn) and molybdenum (Mo) - they feed the soil that feeds your plants.
- The **MAXIMUM** individual application rate for the fertiliser should be 25 grams per square metre (half a large handful) for Couch and 12 grams per square metre for Kikuyu and Buffalo.
- If fertiliser is required, apply in spring or early Autumn (Sept, Oct, Nov, Mar and Apr) - when plants are growing.
- Do not fertilise in summer (increases water use) or winter (washes into waterways)
- Do not over water - it washes the fertiliser into waterways
- Grow local plants – they require less fertiliser and water
- Using the map below, identify your soil type. And then download the **Fertilise Wise Guide** and **Local Plant Guide** that applies to your area:

## Look for the Logo!

Look out for **Fertilise Wise endorsed fertilisers** at your local hardware store or garden centre.



Fertilise Wise endorsed fertilisers have undergone a rigorous, independent testing process to ensure that they are effective and responsible. Thus you can buy these products with the confidence that they are going to grow great gardens without polluting our precious rivers.