

## FACTSHEET

### Fertilizer Management in the Jordan Lake Watershed Rule 15A NCAC 02B .0272

#### **What's the purpose of the Jordan Fertilizer Management Rule?**

The purpose of this rule is to better manage the application of nutrients, both inorganic fertilizer and organic nutrients, to lands in the Jordan Lake watershed. This will help protect and enhance water quality in Jordan Lake as well as other streams and waters supply lakes throughout the Jordan Lake watershed.

#### **What are the requirements of the Rule?**

Within three years of the effective date of the rule, that is by August 11, 2012, affected fertilizer applicators in the Jordan Lake watershed shall either:

1. Complete a nutrient management training class provided by Cooperative Extension or the Division that provides an understanding of the value and importance of proper management of nitrogen and phosphorus in regards to water quality (and receive a completion certificate), or
2. Apply fertilizer in accordance with a nutrient management plan that has been approved by a certified technical specialist.

#### **Who is affected by the Rule?**

- Applicators to any of the following lands within Jordan watershed ([map](#) of Jordan Watershed):
  - Commercial cropland, including pastureland, regardless of acreage.
  - Commercial ornamental, floriculture, or greenhouse operations, regardless of acreage.
  - Golf courses, public recreational lands, road or utility rights-of-way, or other commercial or institutional lands that total at least five acres.
- Hired applicators who apply to a combined total of at least five acres per year.
- With the exception of homeowners, everyone who hires an applicator must ensure that the applicator has attended and completed the nutrient management class or applies pursuant to a nutrient management plan that has been approved by a designated technical specialist.

“Applicator” can be an individual or the commercial interest or public entity for whom they work.

“Commercial” means activities conducted primarily for financial profit.

#### **What are the exceptions?**

- Residential homeowners, whether they apply their own fertilizer or hire an applicator, are not subject to the rule (however, as outlined above, commercial applicators who apply fertilizer to such residential lands, assuming those lands total at least 5 acres per year within Jordan watershed, are subject to the rule).
- Owners and lessees of golf courses, public recreational lands, road or utility rights-of-way, or other commercial or institutional lands that total *less* than 5 acres within Jordan watershed and who themselves apply fertilizer to those lands, are not subject to this rule.
- Septage and wastewater residuals applicators are required to comply with the rule upon permit issuance (new permits) or, since August 2010, upon permit renewal (existing permits).
- Animal waste application in compliance with a permitted waste utilization plan is deemed compliant.
- Forest land managed for timber production is not subject.
- Plant sales outlets are not subject.

For additional information, please contact Jason Robinson, DWQ Nonpoint Source Planning Unit, 919-807-6439 or visit <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/jordanlake/fertilizer-management>.