



CHECKLIST 4A

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FOR WATER QUALITY

Use the following questions to help guide your hobby farm nutrient management decisions:

1. Do you test your soil annually through the UMass Amherst Soil Lab (or similar NRCS Extension lab)?

YES NO

If NO, see Fact Sheet 4.2 for sampling method and lab contact information.

2. Do you base your use of fertilizers and/or soil amendments on the results of a recent soil test?

YES NO

If YES, what are the soil test recommendations for fertilization?

If NO, this is highly recommended to ensure an ideal soil nutrient balance and avoid over-fertilization.

3. If fertilizer is recommended by a soil test, do you use organic or natural fertilizers or a soil amendment such as compost or composted manure?

YES NO

If YES, have you selected your organic/natural fertilizer based on the specific nutrient needs of your soil? (See Fact Sheet 4.5 organic fertilizer sources that are best for addressing deficiencies in soil).

If NO, which organic fertilizers would be appropriate for your soil?

4. Which of the following cultivation practices are, or could be, applied to your hobby farm to reduce fertilizer use and better manage soil nutrients? Describe as applicable.

CROP ROTATION SUCCESSION PLANTING INTERCROPPING COMPANION PLANTING

5. Do you produce your own compost?

YES NO

If NO, see Fact Sheet 4.7 for tips on getting started!

6. Do municipal or state regulations restrict the application of fertilizer on your hobby farm?

YES NO

If YES, list the applicable restrictions.