



Purposes of Nutrient Management

- To budget and supply nutrients for plant production
- To properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source
- To minimize agricultural non-point source pollution of surface and ground water resources
- To maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil

Nutrient Management

Description

A nutrient management plan outlining the 4Rs is used to determine how much fertilizer, manure, or other nutrient sources may be safely applied to crops to achieve yields without impacting waterways. In Maryland, nutrient management plans are required for all agricultural land used to produce plants, food, feed, fiber, animals, or other agricultural products. Plans are prepared by University of Maryland Extension advisors, private certified consultants, or farmers who are certified to develop their own plans.

Benefits

- Sound nutrient management reduces fertilizer costs and protects water quality.
- Applying manure to fields following the 4Rs can improve soil health.