

# The Popponesset Beach Association



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Excess algae growth has destroyed many ponds on the Cape and may impact Deans Pond, our beach, and Popponesset Bay.

This is caused by excess nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer and septic tanks. You can help prevent this by following these suggestions.

1. No fertilizer between Oct 16 and April 14.
2. No fertilizer applied before or during heavy rain.
3. Fertilizer spilled on the street or driveway should be removed.
4. Don't use liquid fertilizer.
5. Keep grass 2-3 inches high.
6. Leave grass clippings on your lawn. This is good cheap fertilizer. Some leave it every third clipping.
7. Water early in the morning.
8. Use organic slow release fertilizer.
9. Two brands that are organic, low nitrogen and slow release are Milorganite and Bay State.
10. Ask your lawn care company to follow the above suggestions.
11. Septic tanks are the major cause of excess algae growth. Regular maintenance and pumping, having a 1A system or a minimum of a Title 5 system and an adequately sized leaching field are essential to help prevent this problem.

For further information, please see: [noaa.gov/what-is-harmful-algal-bloom](http://noaa.gov/what-is-harmful-algal-bloom)