

Urban Nutrient Management Panel

UPDATE FOR THE WQGIT

AUGUST 25, 2025

Outline

- Panel Status
- Process Overview
- DRAFT Recommendations

Panel Background

- Original Panel was launched in 2011 and approved in 2013
- Established two types of BMPs:
 - State-wide P reductions, based on legislation
 - Individual BMPs for UNM Plans
- State-wide credits assumed 60-70% reduction in P due to bans and industry phase-out. To be replaced by sales statistics
- Individual credit based on nutrient export risk factors, and implementation of up to 10 core practices.

Context

| Table 9. Acres of credited Urban Nutrient Management Plans Reported for 2023 Progress | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Acres Credited | Pervious Acres | Percent Covered |
| Delaware | 420 | 186,117 | 0.2% |
| Maryland ¹ | 689,387 | 881,001 | 78.3% |
| New York ² | 815 | 598,476 | 0.1% |
| Virginia | 87,568 | 1,416,155 | 6.2% |
| D.C. | 0 | 11,696 | 0.0% |
| Pennsylvania | 0 | 1,555,906 | 0.0% |
| West Virginia | 0 | 169,220 | 0.0% |
| Total | 778,280 | 4,818,571 | 16.2% |
| 1 Maryland reported 263,393 acres of “Commercial Applicator” credit, and 425,995 acres of “DIY” credit. | | | |
| 2 New York provided High Risk and Low Risk splits. All other states claimed the Blended Rate (9% TN, 4.5% TP). | | | |

New Panel

- Evaluate the effectiveness of state fertilizer legislation in reducing the application of nitrogen and phosphorus on urban turf grass.
- Evaluate options and implications for providing nutrient reductions for large, non-fertilized lands
- Evaluate potential approaches to streamline tracking, reporting, and verification of both individual urban nutrient management plans, and any pollutant removal associated with state-wide fertilizer legislation.
- Work with the USWG to provide requested feedback on urban nutrient application and physical process simulation, including P export pathways, and P sensitivities

Expert BMP Review Panel: Urban Nutrient Management

| <i>Panelist</i> | <i>Affiliation</i> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cecilia Lane | DOEE |
| Frank Schneider & Denise Uzipis | PA Dept of Agriculture |
| Martin Hurd | Fairfax County, VA |
| Dylan Burgevin | MDE |
| Arianna Johns & Kay Alexander | Virginia DEQ |
| Dave Montali | Tetra Tech |
| Kevin Du Bois | Department of Defense |
| Michael Goatley | Virginia Tech |
| Gonzalo Ortiz | Virginia Tech, VA DCR |
| Peter Landschoot | Pennsylvania State |
| David Wood & Michele Berry | CSN (Panel co-facilitators) |

New Panel

- Convened in September 2024
- Held 6 Meetings
- Final Report Draft to be delivered for Panel review this week

Lit Review

QUICK SUMMARY

What Did We Review

Science Summary from 2013 Panel Report

Papers published after 2012

- Nitrogen dynamics in urban turfgrass (fate and transport)
- Phosphorus dynamics in urban turfgrass (fate and transport)
- Best Practices for reducing N and P export from turf
- Effectiveness of local and state fertilizer legislation
- Cross-disciplinary studies evaluating fertilizer management

Soil Test Data from 5 labs

Updated survey data on fertilization and turf management practices

Overall: 35 new studies were reviewed in this phase.

Recommendations Outline

*HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED/APPROVED BY PANEL MEMBERS



Basic Structure

The panel is not recommending a change to the fertilizer application methodology

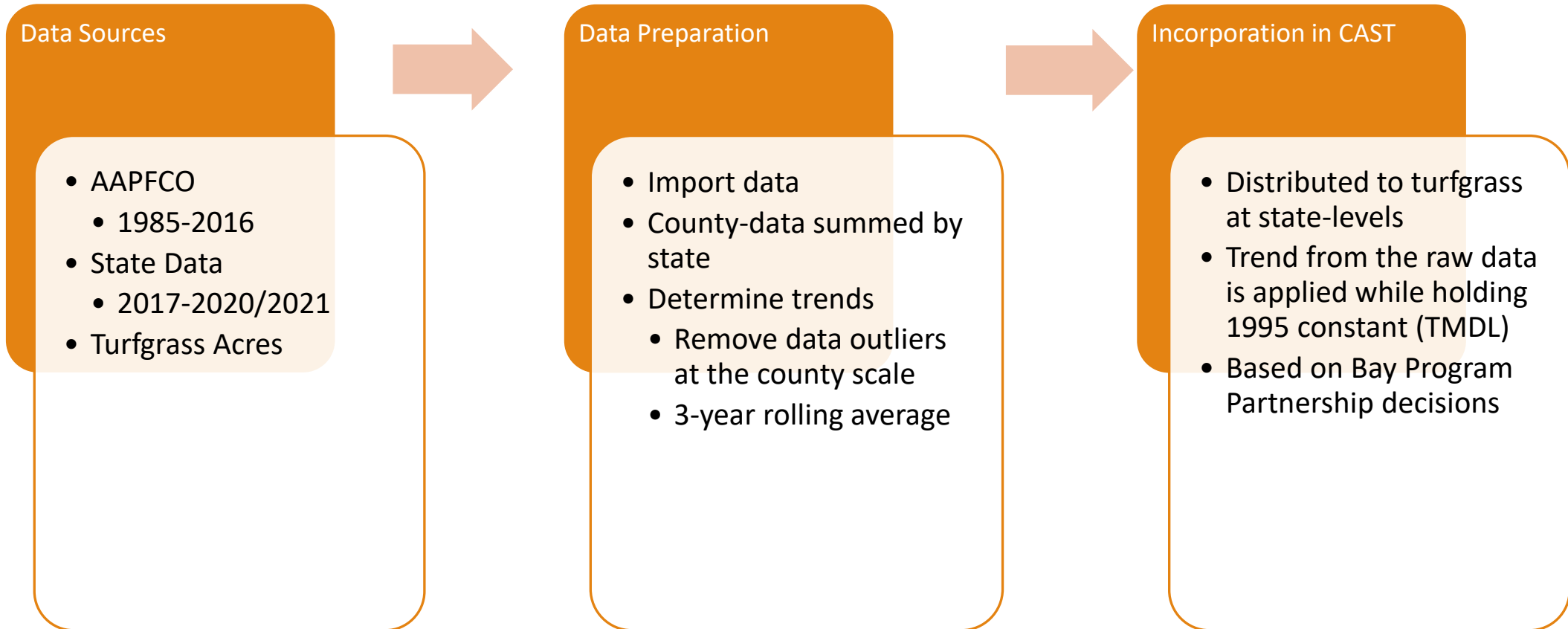
The panel is replacing the High/Low/Blended rates with 3 BMPs:

- BMP #1 is not a reported practice, but a way to talk about the reduction in application rate and subsequent loads from the declining non-farm sales data.
- BMP #2 is a simplified version of the UNM Plans. It adjusts the efficiencies to remove the double-counting of the rate reduction from the declining sales, and drops the high/low split since it was not reported, and lacked verification mechanisms.
- BMP #3 is for non-fertilized turf. It is a slight increase in % reductions over the plans and provides an additional rate-reduction benefit to account for the fact that non-fertilized turf only received a muted benefit from BMP #1 because of how the fertilizer bucket is spread out. This would be an annual BMP.

There is more guidance around record-keeping and triggers for on-site verification checks.

General proposed elimination of homeowner pledges as an eligible BMP due to lack of reporting, and verification mechanism.

Turfgrass Fertilizer Application Method



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Timeline and Next Steps

Approximate Timeline

Panel will receive Revised Draft Report this week

Briefing to the WTWG on September 4

Panel meets on September 11 to review comments and endorse/edit report

USWG Meeting on September 16

WQGIT Meeting on September 22