

Urban Nutrient Management Panel

UPDATE FOR THE USWG

SEPTEMBER 16, 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.

New Panel

- Re-visit the approved CAST-23 methodology for turfgrass fertilizer application.
- 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 7 Meetings
- Panel reviewed draft report and met on 9/11/25 to discuss comments and revisions needed for consensus.

What Did They 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

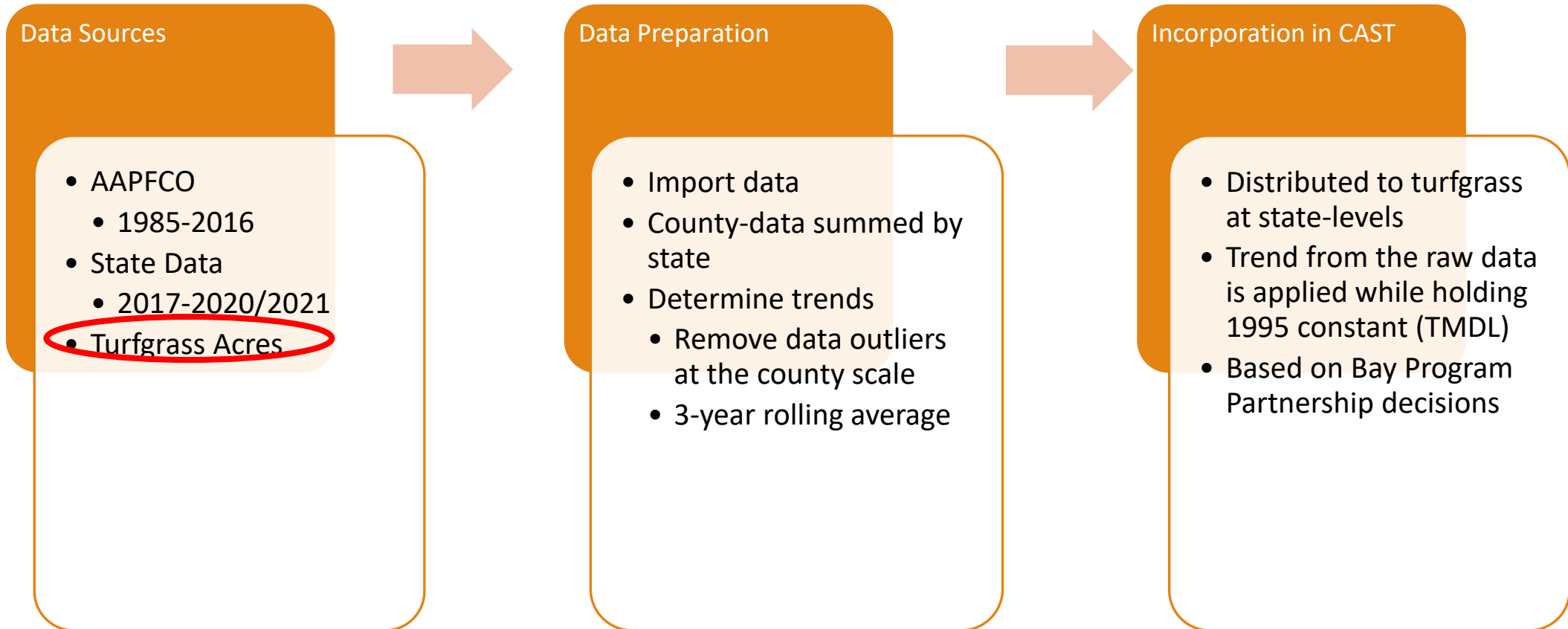
Overall: 35 new studies were reviewed in this phase.

Recommendations Outline

*HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY PANEL – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Turfgrass Fertilizer Application Method



Basic Structure

The panel is not recommending major changes to the fertilizer application methodology

The panel is replacing the current UNM BMP rates with 3-4 updated “BMPs”:

- **Automatic Fertilizer Rate Adjustment:** Not a reported practice, but the reduction in application rate and subsequent loads from the declining non-farm fertilizer sales data.
- **Urban Nutrient Management Plans (w/ Soil Test):** A simplified version of the UNM Plans. It adjusts the N efficiency to remove the double-counting of the rate reduction from the declining sales, and drops the high/low split. Longer duration based on certified plan and completed soil test
- **Urban Nutrient Management Plans (no Soil Test):** Same essential qualifying criteria as the previous BMP, but would be open to signed homeowner pledges following core practices, as well as “trained” professionals developing plan recommendations without a soil test. Same efficiencies but shorter duration.
- **Non-fertilizer Turfgrass:** A slightly higher % reductions over the UNM Plan BMP. This would be an annual BMP.

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

Timeline and Next Steps

Approximate Timeline

~~8/29 - Panel received draft report for review and comment~~

~~9/4 - WTWG initial briefing~~

~~9/11 - Panel meeting to discuss comments and identify any needed changes or barriers to endorsement.~~

9/16 - USWG initial briefing

9/26- Panel provided with final draft of the report

Week of 10/13 - Panel meets to provide final approval

10/21 - USWG receives full recommendations presentation (WTWG sent a copy of the technical appendix for review; recording of the presentation will be sent to WQGIT; will be seeking USWG email approval by 10/24)

10/27 - WQGIT receives full recommendations presentation

11/6 - WTWG Approval Meeting

11/17 - WQGIT Approval Meeting