

Urban Nutrient Management Panel

UPDATE FOR THE WTWG

SEPTEMBER 4, 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 delivered to Panel for review last week

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

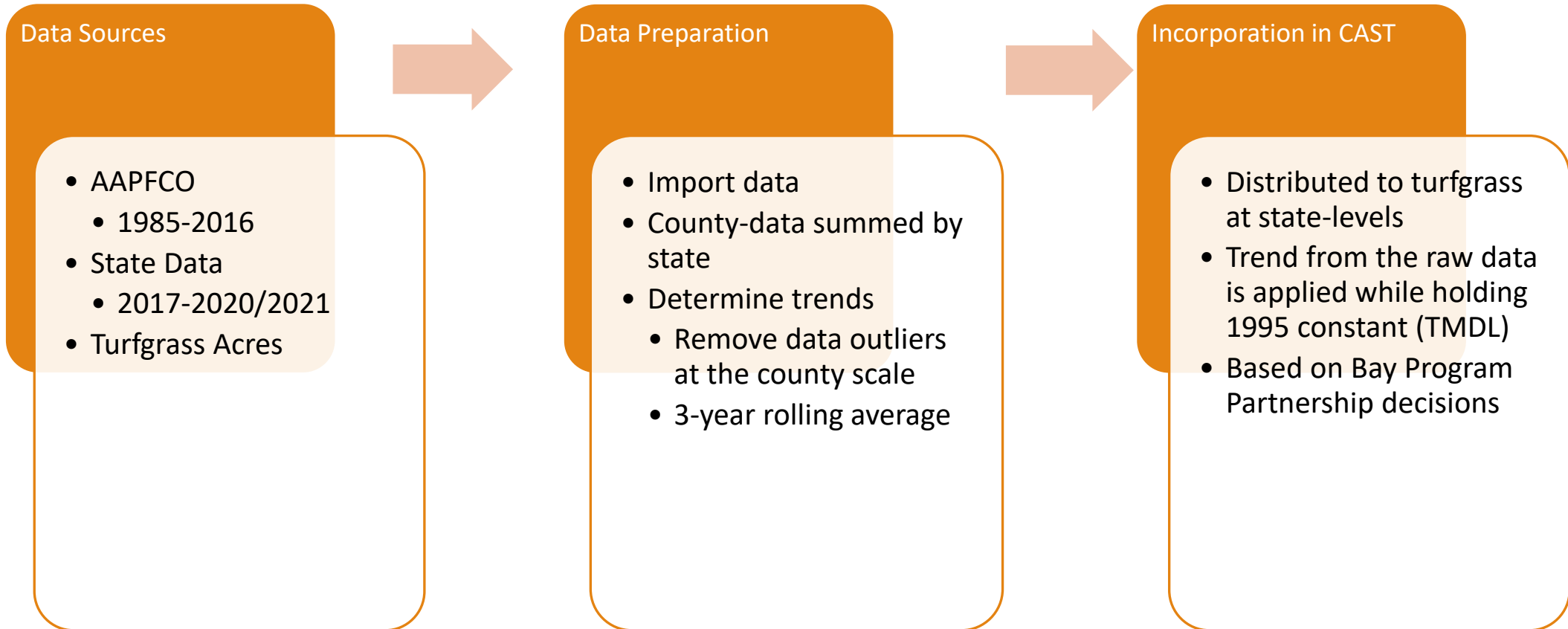
Updated survey data on fertilization and turf management practices

Overall: 35 new studies were reviewed in this phase.

Recommendations Outline

*HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED/APPROVED BY PANEL MEMBERS

Turfgrass Fertilizer Application Method



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”:

- **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:** 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 since it was not reported, and lacked verification mechanisms.
- **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.

Panel is still tackling how to handle homeowner pledges. Discussions are ongoing regarding MD’s DIY BMP.

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