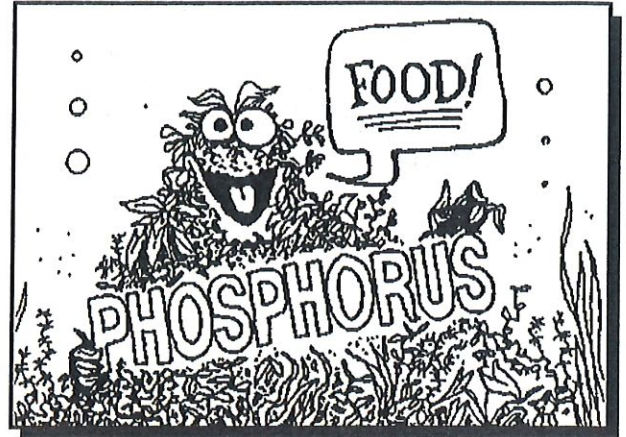


NUTRIENTS

Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen come from sediments, manure, pet wastes, improperly maintained septic systems and misapplications of fertilizers on lawns or farm fields. When these nutrients reach our lakes and streams they do more than just turn the water green.

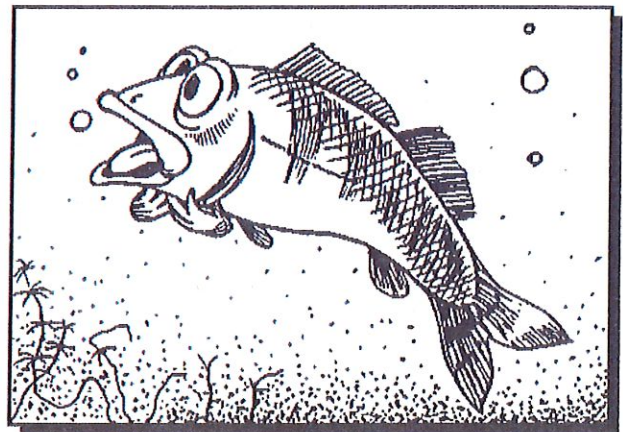
- ▶ Phosphorus contributes to the eutrophication or over-fertilization of lakes. This leads to an increase in undesirable weed and algae growth. Excess weeds and algae are harmful to fish and make a lake less attractive for swimming, boating, and other activities.



- ▶ Excess algae can reduce populations of bottom-rooted plants by blocking sunlight. Bottom-rooted plants provide food and habitat for fish and waterfowl.



- ▶ When algae and aquatic weeds die they are broken down by bacteria. Bacteria consume oxygen during the decomposition process and make it difficult for fish and other aquatic life to survive. Excess weeds and reduced oxygen levels also contribute to winter fish kills in shallow lakes.



- ▶ When organic materials such as manure, pet wastes, leaves and grass clippings enter a lake or stream they are broken down by bacteria. The decomposition process reduces oxygen levels in the water and may release ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures can kill fish.

