

Nutrient Management & Best Management Practices

PACOG encourages efficient nutrient management and the implementation of BMPs to reduce nutrient pollution within the lakes, rivers, and streams of Pueblo County, Colorado.

Nutrient Management

The goal of nutrient management is to use nutrients and soil amendments to maximize their economic benefit while minimizing their environmental impact. To develop an effective nutrient management strategy look to address each of the following factors: Source, Method, Assessment, Rate and Timing, with Best Management Practices.

Best Management Practices

Nutrient Best Management Practices (BMPs) are practices intended to reduce adverse environmental effects of nutrients and maintain agricultural production.

Note

Nutrient management and BMPs partnered with efficient irrigation management may further reduce the impact of agricultural runoff within Pueblo County, CO.

Link:
[COAG Irrigation BMPs](#)

Source

What types of nutrients should I use?
There are Primary, secondary and trace nutrient that plants need to grow. Avoid applying large amounts of nutrients on soils with higher leaching potential. Check out the link for more information.

Link:
[ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS FOR PLANTS](#)

Link:
[Farmers: Nutrient Management](#)

Method

How and where should I apply nutrients?
Place nutrients in a location where the potential for crop uptake is the most efficient. This may mean different application methods for different locations. Check out the link for more information.

Assessment

Determine the site specific conditions of your land by:

- Developing a nutrient management plan with help from the NRCS Pueblo Service Center.
- Performing soil tests with to determine the nutrients already present.
- Coordinate soil testing with a laboratory that performs soil analysis.

Check out the link for more information.

Pueblo Service Center:
Phone: (719) 543-8386
[Pueblo County Local Farmers Dashboard](#)

Soil Lab	CSU	Weld Labs
Website	https://agsci.colostate.edu/soiltestinglab/	https://weldlabs.com/ag-soil/
Address	4780 National Western Drive Denver, CO 80216	1527 1st Ave. Greeley, CO 80631
Contact	Phone: (970) 491-5061 Email: soiltestinglab@mail.colostate.edu	Phone: (970) 353-8118 Email: info@weldlabs.com

Link:
[CSU: Soil Testing Information](#)

Link:
[Colorado Ag Water Quality](#)

Rate

How much do I need?
Results from soil analysis and knowledge of the plant nutrient needs will help you determine the nutrient application rate and avoid over-fertilizing. Contact Gerry Moore(gerry.moore@usda.gov) for estimates of nutrient removal by crops. Check out the link for more information.

Timing

When should I apply nutrients to my land?
Time application for maximum crop uptake. For a Colorado vegetable specific nutrient timing guide, please check out the link.

Link:
[Colorado Vegetable Guide](#)

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

PACOG encourages responsible installation, operation and maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) to reduce nutrient pollution within the groundwater, lakes, rivers, and streams of Pueblo County, Colorado.

What is an OWTS?

An OWTS or septic system, is an underground wastewater treatment system system that is used to treat wastewater. An OWTS is connected to a drain field which is designed to slowly release the wastewater into the soil. There are several requirements associated with responsible OWTS ownership such as permitting, installation, operation, inspection, and maintenance. Please read below for more information.

Permitting

The Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE), is the one source in Pueblo County for OWTS permitting. Activities such as installation of a new OWTS, OWTS repairs, expansion, use and operation or an OWTS are required to be permitted. Check out the link for more information.

Link:
[PDPHE OWTS](#)

Installation

When planning to install a new OWTS, review the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) approved septic system, Regulation 43: product acceptance lists. Check out the link for more information.

Link:
[CDPHE OWTS](#)

Operation

When operating an OWTS, one may want to understand the do's and don'ts, troubleshooting and other management tips to ensure their OWTS is in top operating condition. The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) has published OWTS training for OWTS owners and operators to help you ensure the proper operation of an OTWS. Check out the link for more information.

Link:
[NOWRA OWTS Training](#)

Inspections

The USEPA recommends average households should be inspected every three years and pumped every three to five years. Check out the link for more information.

Link:
[USEPA OWTS Inspection information](#)

Maintenance

The PDPHE has put together a list of professionals that offer OWTS services in Pueblo County. Services such as installers, cleaners, designers, inspectors and soil technicians are listed. Check out the link for more information.

Link:
[PDPHE Professional Resources list](#)

Funding

The US EPA provides a summary of funding sources for projects associated with OWTS. There are funding opportunities for individuals over 65 years old, low-income households and other organizations. Check out the link for more information.

Link:
[USEPA OWTS Funding List](#)