

# Water Quality

1. NI = 9.3 mg/L

2. Why - Nitrates are important to the agricultural industry because they are the fertilizer that helps to grow healthy, abundant crops. They can consist of natural fertilizers like manure, or can consist of synthetic fertilizers like chemical fertilizers. (Chem Lawn). The healthiest, organic fertilizers come from natural sources.

3. Health/ Prob. / Nitrates can cause problems with red blood cells being able to carry the oxygen required by all cells.

4. Fertilize lawns - People like to have perfect lawns, so they often use fertilizers to make their lawn green. This is bad for many reasons but most importantly because any water runoff carries these nutrients downstream/into the lakes, ponds, and streams. This encourages the growth of aquatic weeds/vegetation and algae, (Chocking waterways).

5. pH test = 7.0 pH

6. It is important to keep track of the pH value of water ~~because~~ because there is a very narrow margin on this scale that will support life.

The lower the value than 7 (neutral on the pH scale) the more acidic the environment. (like battery acid)  
The higher the value than 7, the more basic (like bleach).

Organisms cannot live in such extreme environments in our New England ponds and streams.

- A pH lower would probably kill an organism or at least hinder its ability to survive and reproduce.

My Watershed Address is:

The Chicopee River Drainage Basin

① HUC = 01080204