

St. Johns County :: Protect Our Water

FERTILIZER RESTRICTIONS

Why do we need to be careful with fertilizer?

St. Johns County regulates fertilizer use to provide accurate management guidelines for application. The fertilizer ordinance regulates the use of fertilizers containing Nitrogen and Phosphorus commonly referred to as nutrients, to prevent excess nutrients from entering our waters from drainage and runoff. Proper application will minimize negative effects and help to protect the quality of surface and ground water which is critical to the health of our environment, economy, and recreational opportunities.

Fertilizer Guidelines

- Do not apply if there is a flood, tropical storm or a hurricane watch or warning issued by the National Weather Service for St. Johns County, or if a heavy rain is likely.
- Do not apply within 10 ft of any surface water body or 3 ft if using a deflector shield or drop spreader.
- All commercial and institutional applicators of fertilizer shall successfully complete the Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries training program.
- All fertilizer businesses must ensure that at least one employee has a Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries training certificate prior to the business owner obtaining a Local Business Tax Certificate.
- Fertilizer application guidelines allow no more than 5 lbs of nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft, per year, and less in some cases depending on type of grass. The State requires all fertilizer sold in Florida be labeled consistent with this rule.

For More Information

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