

## Florida-Friendly Landscaping

1. **Right Plant, Right Place** – Select plants and turfgrass that match a site's soil, light, water, and climatic conditions.
2. **Water Efficiently** – An efficient irrigation system or watering program conserves water and helps to ensure that fertilizer and other pollution doesn't flow into waterbodies.
3. **Fertilize Appropriately** – Proper fertilization enhances growth; improper fertilization can cause damage to plants and the environment.
4. **Mulch** – Mulch helps retain soil moisture, protects plants, and inhibits weed growth.
5. **Attract Wildlife** – Select plants with seeds, fruit, foliage, flowers, or berries that provide food.
6. **Manage Yard Pests Responsibly** – Avoid over-treating and only spot-treat, rather than blanket spraying, and use selective rather than broad-spectrum insecticides.
7. **Recycle Yard Waste** – Using yard waste for composting is a sustainable way of creating organic fertilizer.
8. **Reduce Stormwater Runoff** – Fertilizers, pesticides, debris, and eroded soil carried in stormwater can negatively impact our water quality. Retain and use the rainwater that falls on our home landscapes as much as possible.
9. **Protect the Vegetative Waterfront** – Maintain a low-maintenance zone along the waterside; do not mow, fertilize, or use pesticides in this zone.



Revised: June 13, 2023

**Every Drop You Lose,  
Nature Finds.**

Tappwater.org  
850-891-6860



## Yard Care & Fertilizer Application Guide



## Restricted Periods

No fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall be applied during these weather conditions:

- A flood watch or warning
- A tropical storm, or hurricane, watch or warning
- When a three-day cone of storm uncertainty is in effect for any part of Leon County
- When heavy rain is expected

## Phosphate Applications

Phosphorus is generally not needed in lawn fertilizers. Look for a zero-phosphorus product unless a soil test indicates otherwise.

## Nitrogen Applications

It is recommended that nitrogen fertilizers contain at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen (SRN) or water-insoluble nitrogen (WIN). You may apply fertilizer according to the instructions on the label, no more than two to four times each year.

## Deflector Shields

A deflector shield is required on all broadcast spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied within three feet of any waterbody or wetland.

## Grass Clippings

No grass clippings, vegetative material, or vegetative debris may be deposited in stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, waterbodies or roadways.

## Commercial and Institutional Fertilizer Applicators

All applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners on their own property) must receive training and certification in a City and/or County approved Best Management Practices (BMP) training program.

## Fertilizer-Free Zone

No fertilizer may be applied to streets and driveways and any spillage must be removed. Fertilizer may not be applied within three feet of any waterbody or wetland.

## Low-Maintenance Zone

A 6-foot low-maintenance zone of landscape plants appropriate for preventing fertilizer runoff is recommended for any waterbody or wetland.



## Fertilizer Ordinance



The City of Tallahassee's fertilizer ordinance was created to regulate the proper use of fertilizers so as to limit the harmful effects on the city's water

bodies. Overgrowth of algae and vegetation hinder the effectiveness of flood attenuation provided by natural and constructed stormwater conveyances. Regulation of nutrients contained in fertilizer will help improve and maintain water and habitat quality.

(Ord. No. 08-O-72AA, § 1, 1-28-2009)

## Does your lawn care company:

- Have a City-certified fertilizer applicator on site?
- Remove grass clippings from the roadway, storm drains and ditches?
- Use a Slow-Release Nitrogen (SRN) or Water-Insoluble Nitrogen (WIN) fertilizer product?
- Apply no more than the maximum allowable amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus?
- Use a deflector shield on all broadcast fertilizer spreaders?
- Promote the benefits of a low-maintenance vegetative zone around waterbodies?
- Maintain a 3-foot fertilizer-free zone around waterbodies and wetlands?

