Village of Royal Palm Beach’s Fertilizer-Friendly Use Ordinance for Urban Landscapes

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Presentation Overview

- Fertilizer in urban runoff
- Impacts of excessive nutrients on water bodies
- Requirements for local government to adopt a fertilizer ordinance
- Nutrient impaired water bodies in PBC
- Fertilizer ordinance provisions
Fertilizer in Urban Runoff

- Right-of-Way Landscape Areas,
- Recreational Facilities,
- Landscape Areas along Water Bodies,
- Golf Courses, and,
- Residential and Commercial Landscaped Areas.
Impacts of Excessive Nutrients on Water Bodies

- Nuisance/toxic algae blooms
- Reduced light penetration
- Low DO
- Fish kills
- Taste and odor issues
- Clogging water intake systems
- Nuisance algae
- Health issues (high nitrites)
- Reduced water clarity
- Negative on real estate values
Requirements for Local Governments to Adopt a Fertilizer Ordinance

Florida statute (Section 403.9337) and the Palm Beach County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit requires local governments within the watershed of a nutrient impaired water body to adopt, as a minimum, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Model Ordinance for Florida-friendly fertilizer use on urban landscape.

Adopt ordinance by March 2013
Nutrient Impaired Water Bodies within Palm Beach County
Local Governments that may Discharge to Nutrient Impaired Water Bodies

1. Atlantis
2. Belle Glade
3. Boca Raton
4. Boynton Beach
5. Delray Beach
6. Golf, Village of
7. Gulf Stream
8. Highland Beach
9. Hypoluxo
10. Jupiter
11. Jupiter Inlet Colony
12. Lake Worth
13. Lantana
14. Loxahatchee Groves
15. Mangonia Park
16. Ocean Ridge
17. Pahokee
18. Palm Beach County
19. Palm Beach Gardens
20. Palm Springs
21. Riviera Beach
22. Royal Palm Beach
23. South Bay
24. Tequesta
25. Wellington
26. West Palm Beach
Fertilizer Ordinance Provisions

- Regulates the proper use of fertilizer by applicators
- Establishes training and licensing requirements
- Establishes a prohibited application period
- Specifies fertilizer free zones
- Specifies allowable application rates and methods
- Identifies exemptions
- Provides for enforcement and penalties
Fertilizer Applicators Defined

- **Commercial Fertilizer Applicator** means any person who applies fertilizer for payment or other consideration to property not owned by the person or firm applying the fertilizer or the employee of the applicators.

- **Institutional Applicator** means any person, other than a private, non-commercial or a Commercial Applicator that applies fertilizer for the purpose of maintaining turf and/or landscape plants. Institutional Applicators include: owners, managers or employees of public lands, schools, parks, religious institutions, utilities, industrial or business sites and any residential properties maintained in condominium and/or common ownership.
Training

By 2014 all commercial and institutional applicators are required to complete the six-hour training program in the “Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries” offered by the FDEP through the University of Florida/Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service “Florida-Friendly Landscapes” program.
1. All businesses that apply fertilizer to turf and/or landscape plants shall provide proof of completion of the “Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries” training program to the Village, prior to the business owner obtaining their Business Tax Receipt annually.
Licensing

2. After 31 December, 2013, all commercial applicators of fertilizer operating within the Village, shall have and carry in their possession at all times when applying fertilizer, evidence of certification by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a Commercial Fertilizer Applicator.
Prohibited Application Period

- No Applicator shall apply fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus to turf and/or landscape plants during the prohibited application period (heavy rainfall forecasted by the National Weather Service) or to saturated soils
Fertilizer Free Zones

- Fertilizer shall not be applied within ten (10) feet, or three (3) feet if a deflector shield or drop spreader is used, of any pond, stream, water body, lake, canal, wetland, or from the top of a seawall or lake bulkhead.
Fertilizers applied to turf shall be applied in accordance with requirements and directions provided by Rule 5E-1.003(2), Florida Administrative Code, Labeling Requirements For Urban Turf Fertilizers. The required application rate and frequency maximums, which vary by plant and turf types, are found on the labeled fertilizer bag container.
Allowable Application Rates

- Fertilizer used at golf courses shall be applied in accordance with the recommendations in “BMP’s for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses”, published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, dated January 2007.
Other Ordinance Provisions

- Any fertilizer applied, spilled, or deposited, either intentionally or accidentally, on any impervious surface shall be immediately and completely removed to the greatest extent practicable.
- In no case shall fertilizer be washed, swept, or blown off impervious surfaces into stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, or water bodies.
- In no case shall grass clippings, vegetative material, and/or vegetative debris intentionally, be washed, swept, or blown off into stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, wetlands, sidewalks or roadways.
Exemptions

- Bona fide farm operations as defined in the Florida Right to Farm Act, Section 823.14, Florida Statutes.
- Other properties not subject to or covered under the Florida Right-to-Farm Act that have pastures used for grazing livestock.
- Any lands used for bona fide scientific research.
The Palm Beach County MS4 NPDES Program

Purpose: This web site has been authorized by the Palm Beach County MS4 NPDES Steering Committee as a resource for all co-permittees within the county. It is intended that this site will provide the user with helpful information on understanding and complying with the requirements of the NPDES permit.

What is PBC MS4 NPDES?
The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a federal program designed to reduce stormwater pollutant discharges to receiving waters of the United States. (more)

What's New

Draft Fertilizer Ordinance for Municipalities

Download the September 2011 draft of the Fertilizer-Friendly Use Ordinance for municipalities in MS Word or Adobe PDF formats

The presentation given by Mark Roos in September 2011 summarizing Palm Beach County’s Fertilizer-Friendly Use Ordinance for Urban Landscapes can be downloaded here.

The contact at FDEP for issues related to the Fertilizer Ordinance is Mike Thomas, Ph.D., P.E. at michael.thomas@depo.state.fl.us or 850-245-7513.