

Some questions for you to ask your lawn maintenance contractor

- Have you received fertilizer and pesticide application training?
- Did you receive your license after training?
- What fertilizer(s) are you using?
- How much is being applied?
- How often and at what time of the year?
- Are grass clippings being returned to the lawn?
- Is fertilizer on driveways and roadside drains blown back onto the lawn?
- What precautions do you take to prevent grass cuttings from getting into bodies of water?
- Are you aware and do you adhere to the 10 foot no-fertilizer buffer zone to bodies of water?
- Do you keep records of applications, fertilizer types and amounts?
- Are these records available for inspection?



Above: A "Floritam" St. Augustine grass lawn fertilized once a year in April with 1 lb of slow release Nitrogen fertilizer and zero Phosphorous content.


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county's law

HEALING THE LAGOON

Guide to Local Fertilizer Ordinance



Why is a fertilizer ordinance needed?

To reduce Nitrogen and Phosphorus flowing from yards, ponds and canals into the Lagoon.

What are the key requirements?

No Phosphorous

Fertilizers are required to have zero Phosphorous content specified on the bag.

Slow Release Nitrogen

Fertilizer must contain at least 50% Nitrogen coated for slow release shown on the bag.

No application during the rainy season

Our rainy season is from June 1 through September 31. No fertilizers containing Nitrogen or Phosphorous may be used during this time.

Buffer zones around bodies of water

No fertilizers may be applied within ten feet of ponds, lakes, canals, sea walls or the lagoon.

FERTILIZING YOUR LAWN

- **What type of Fertilizer to use**

No Phosphorous
At least 50% Slow Release Nitrogen

- **Reading the Fertilizer Label**

Example: **16 - 0 - 8 (N-P-K)**

N (Nitrogen = 16 %)

P (Phosphorous = 0%)

K (Potassium = 8%)

- **When To Fertilize:**

(A) April and **(B)** after September 31

- **How much to use:**

1 lb of Nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. in April.
1/2 lb per 1000 sq ft in October.

CALCULATING FERTILIZER COVERAGE

- Fertilizer bag weight: 50 pounds
- Nitrogen: 16%
- Amount of Nitrogen in bag: $50 \times 16/100 = 8$ lbs of Nitrogen that will cover 8000 sq. ft. at 1 lb /1000 sq. ft.

Rule of thumb: A house on 1/3 acre (15,000 sq. ft.) with 50% dedicated to house, driveway and landscaping leaves 50% (7,500 sq. ft.) of lawn to be fertilized.

Note: Slow release Nitrogen extends nutrient availability into the growing season without excessive growth. Discoloration of grass during the summer may be cured with a dressing of iron; Nitrogen is not needed.

