

How Can I Help Reduce Negative Impacts When I Fertilize?

Use Deflector Shields

A spreader deflector shield is required when fertilizing with any broadcast spreaders to deflect fertilizer granules away from all impervious surfaces, fertilizer-free zone, no-mow zone, and waterbodies, including wetlands.

Consider a No-Mow Zone

A voluntary 10 foot no-mow zone is strongly recommended, but not required, from the edge of any pond, stream, water body, canal or wetlands to reduce the potential for fertilizer residue to pollute our waterways.

Respect the Fertilizer-Free Zone

No fertilizer shall be applied in or within 10 feet of the edge of any water body, seawall or wetland.

Keep it Clean and Green

Fertilizers shall not be applied on impervious surfaces. If a spill occurs, clean it up immediately. Grass clippings and landscape debris shall not be swept or blown off into stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, roadways or other impervious surfaces.



What Else Can I Do To Help?

Composting

Use compost as a soil amendment for improved moisture retention and availability of nutrients.

Dispose of Hazardous Products Properly

Fertilizers, lawn chemicals, and other hazardous products should not be placed in the trash for regular curb-side pick-up. These products should be brought to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at the Martin County Transfer Station, or to the "HazMobile," a mobile household hazardous waste collection vehicle. For more information call 772-221-1416.



Learn More

For more information, please contact: Martin County Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division
772-288-5927 ext. 3

Attend lawn and landscape classes offered by the UF/IFAS Martin County Extension Service. See <http://martin.ifas.ufl.edu> for upcoming events.

UF/IFAS Martin County Extension Service
2614 SE Dixie Highway
Stuart, FL 34996
Phone: 772-288-5654



FERTILIZER DO'S AND DON'TS

"Do your part to protect the St. Lucie River and Estuary."

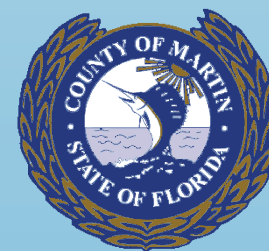


Photo Taken By Phil Owen, MC Growth Management

Ordinance #895

On July 26, 2011, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners approved a set of fertilizer rules. These rules are for anyone who applies fertilizer, such as homeowners, landscapers, pest control firms, and others.

These rules intend to improve our local surface waters, while still providing for beautiful and healthy yards.



When Can I Apply Fertilizer?

Prohibited Application Period June 1 - September 30

No fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall be applied to turf or landscape plants between June 1 and September 30. Additionally, no such fertilizers may be applied during a flood watch or warning, tropical storm watch or warning, or a hurricane watch or warning, as issued by the National Weather Service, or if heavy rains (in excess of 2 inches in 24 hours) are expected.

Allowed Application Period October 1 - May 31

Phosphate

Fertilizers applied in unincorporated Martin County shall be “low phosphorus” or “low phosphate” as established by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Nitrogen

Fertilizers containing nitrogen shall either:

1. be formulated to contain no less than 50% slow-release nitrogen
- or
2. be applied at a rate of no more than 0.5 lb per 1,000 square feet of water soluble nitrogen.

What Do I Look for in Fertilizer?

Look for the terms time-release, slow-release or controlled-release on the product label. At least 50% of the nitrogen (N) in the fertilizer should be slow-release nitrogen.



To determine how much nitrogen in your fertilizer is slow-release nitrogen use the “Guaranteed Analysis” (or fertilizer content) label on your fertilizer bag, along with the calculation below.

Guaranteed Analysis	
TOTAL NITROGEN (N)	16.00 %
14.45% Urea Nitrogen (N)*	
SOLUBLE POTASH (K ₂ O)	26.00 %
SULFUR (S) Total	19.00 %
10.50% Free sulfur (S)	
9.20% Combined sulfur (S)	
IRON (Fe) Total	0.90 %
0.19% Water Soluble (Fe)	
MANGANESE (Mn) Total	0.40 %
0.1% Water Soluble Manganese (Mn)	
DERIVED FROM: Polymer Coated Sulfur Coated Urea, Sulfate of Potash, Iron Oxide, Manganese Oxide.	
CHLORINE (Cl) Max	2.00 %
*8.00% Slowly Available Urea Nitrogen from Polymer Coated Sulfur Coated Urea.	

✓ 50% of the nitrogen in this bag of fertilizer is slow-release nitrogen. This bag meets Martin County requirements

$$\frac{8}{16} \times 100 = 50\%$$

How Much Fertilizer Should I Apply?

The table below shows how many pounds of fertilizer to apply based on your yard size and your fertilizer’s nitrogen content.

		Total Nitrogen (%)						
		6	10	12	15	16	23	27
Lawn Size (sq ft)	1,000	8.25	5	4.25	3.25	3	2.25	2
	1,500	12.5	7.5	6.75	5	4.75	3.25	2.75
	2,000	16.75	10	8.5	6.5	6	4.5	4
	2,500	20.75	12.5	10.5	8.25	7.75	5.5	4.75
	3,000	25	15	12.75	9.75	9	6.5	6

For example, if your fertilizer is 16% total nitrogen, and your lawn is 2,000 sq/ft, you should apply no more than 6 pounds of fertilizer.

Guaranteed Analysis	
TOTAL NITROGEN (N)	16.00 %
14.45% Urea Nitrogen (N)*	

What are the Three Numbers I See on Fertilizer Bags?



Total Nitrogen (N) Phosphate (P₂O₅) Potash (K₂O)