

## Brief Summary of Pinellas County's Fertilizer Ordinance

While not the only source of excess nutrients in our local waters, reducing our personal contribution to pollution is an important step in improving water quality.

For those who choose to fertilize, the Ordinance requires the following:

From June 1 through September 30<sup>th</sup> no fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous can be used in Pinellas County.

From October 1st through May 30th, the following conditions apply to fertilizer use:

### Content

#### Nitrogen

Total Nitrogen = 50% or more must be Slow Release Nitrogen [click here to use the calculator](#):

#### Phosphorus

Total Phosphorus = zero (0) phosphorous fertilizers must be used unless a State-certified laboratory soil test indicates a deficiency. Florida soils have naturally occurring phosphorous and application of phosphorous fertilizer may not be necessary.

### Application

- Granular fertilizers: Up to one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet per application
- Liquid fertilizers: Up to one-half (0.5) pound of water soluble nitrogen per 1000 square feet per application
- Annual limit: Up to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet
- No nitrogen application within 30 days of newly-installed landscape
- Deflector shields must be used on fertilizer spreaders to keep granules off impervious (hard) surfaces and out of waterways

### Fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus CANNOT:

- Be applied during the rainy season (June 1 through September 30)
- Be applied within 10 feet of a body of water
- Be applied if the National Weather Service forecasts heavy rains to occur within 24 hours in Pinellas County
- Be applied to impervious surfaces, such as roads, driveways and sidewalks AND overcast must be swept up immediately

### Landscape Maintenance MUST INCLUDE:

- Keeping grass clippings, leaves, and other yard waste out of the streets, driveways, sidewalks, stormdrains, and surface waters
- Commercial landscape staff must be trained in county-approved Best Management Practices for mowing, trimming, and landscape debris management by July 18, 2011. Pinellas County vehicle decal required on all landscape service vehicles.
- Commercial fertilizer applicators must be state-certified in Green Industry Best Management Practices and licensed (commercial fertilizer applicator License) through State of Florida FDACS by January 19, 2011 according to the Pinellas County fertilizer Ordinance. Pinellas County vehicle decal required on all fertilizer application service vehicles.



*Note: These restrictions do not apply to fertilizers containing secondary or micronutrients only.*

The Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance (10-06) was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on January 19, 2010. This ordinance regulates landscape maintenance and the sale and use of fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous in Pinellas County. [To view the complete Fertilizer Ordinance, click here.](#)

[FAQs for Homeowners](#) 

[FAQs for Professional Landscapers](#) 