HOW TO FERTILIZE LIKE A FLORIDIAN

Volusia County bans the use of fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus from June 1 through Sept. 30

In Florida, summer rains wash fertilizers with nitrogen and phosphorus into our lakes and rivers, damaging what makes this state so beautiful. That's why it's illegal in Volusia County to use fertilizer with nitrogen or phosphorus during the summer rainy season, and why slow-release is required the rest of the year.

The good news is there are lots of ways to keep your yard looking great – while keeping algae-feeding nitrogen and phosphorus out of our waterways.

OCTOBER THROUGH MAY

- **Twice is nice.** Fertilize just twice a year, in April and October.
- **Watch the weather.** Rainstorms don't water in fertilizer; they wash it away. That wastes money and pollutes our water.
- **Skip the phosphorus.** Florida soils are naturally rich in phosphorus. Use phosphorus-based fertilizer only if a soil or plant tissue test turns up a deficiency.
- **Go slow by half.** Nitrogen in our lawn and landscape fertilizers must be at least 50% slow release (also called timed release or controlled release) from Oct. 1 through May 31.

JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

- **Just say no to nitrogen and phosphorus.** Volusia County ordinance bans the use of lawn and landscape fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus from June 1 through Sept. 30.
- **Pump some iron.** Use Florida-friendly yard products that contain iron or other micronutrients to green up your lawn during the summer.
- **Get better dirt.** Give your garden a boost by adding compost, composted cow or chicken manure, perlite, or other soil amendments.
- **Pick better plants.** Florida-friendly landscaping needs less fertilizer, water and overall care – leaving you more time for fun. Ask a sales rep or visit **fyn.ifas.ufl.edu** to learn more.

Enjoy Florida. It's where you live!

Volusia County FLORIDA

befloridiannow.org

You've mastered the art of fertilizing like a Floridian. Now you're ready to go all out. After all, our very way of life – boating, fishing, relaxing while sipping drinks with little umbrellas – is at stake.

SEVEN WAYS

TO STEP IT UP AND KEEP OUR WATERS FUN

1. **Test your turf.** Before throwing fertilizer on your yard, do a little research – or you could be throwing money away. If the problem is a pH imbalance, pest invasion or nutrient deficiency, fertilizer isn't going to make a difference. Learn more by calling the University of Florida/Volusia County Extension at 386-822-5778 or visiting **volusia.org/fertilizer**.
2. **Fab 15.** Keep fertilizer at least 15 feet away from any body of water.
3. **Sweep it up.** Whisk any fertilizer granules that fall onto sidewalks, streets or driveways back into the landscaping.
4. **On your guard.** Use a spreader with a deflector shield or edge guard so you spread fertilizer only where you need it.
5. **Keep the clippings.** Don't throw grass clippings away; leave them right on your lawn. Clippings can supply up to 50% of the nitrogen your grass needs.
6. **Mow high.** Mowing too short stresses the turf and makes it vulnerable to disease, pests and drought. St. Augustine grass should be mowed at 3.5 to 4 inches.
7. **Be Floridian.** What works in other places is silly here in the semitropics. Ask a sales rep about how you can create a Florida yard. Or visit **fyn.ifas.ufl.edu** for ideas and help.

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VOLUSIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
greenvolusia.org

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