

Palm Beach County'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



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

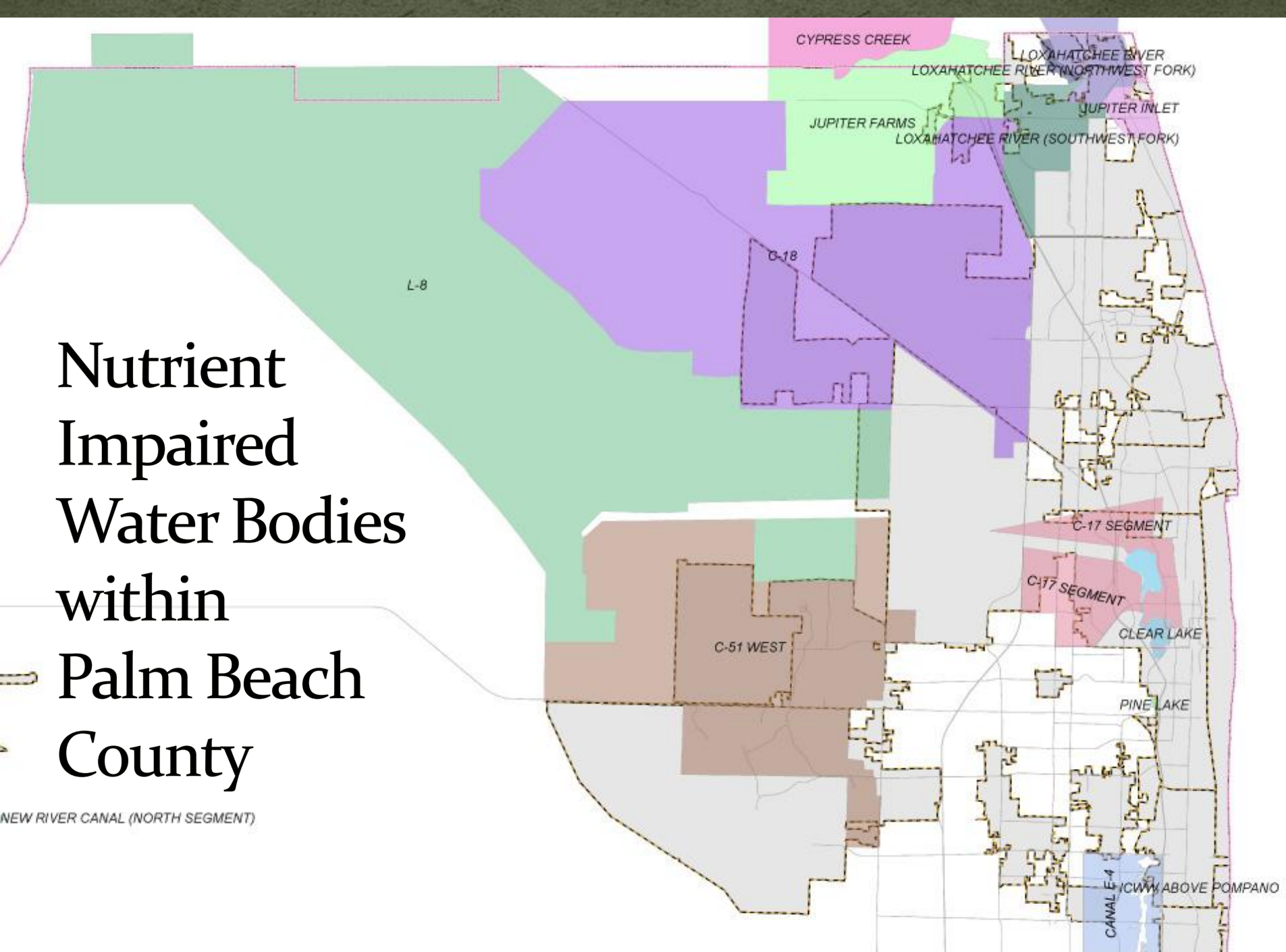
Florida statute (Section 403.9337) and the Palm Beach County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit requires local governments within the watershed of a nutrient impaired water body to adopt, as a minimum, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Model Ordinance for Florida-friendly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

Adopt ordinance by March 2013

STATE OF FLORIDA MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM PERMIT	
FACILITY NAME:	Palm Beach County MS4
PERMIT NUMBER:	FLS000018-003 — MAJOR Facility
ISSUANCE DATE:	March 2, 2011
EXPIRATION DATE:	March 1, 2016
PERMITTEES:	
Atlantis, City of 260 Orange Tree Drive Atlantis, Florida 33462-1193	Belle Glade, City of 110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Belle Glade, Florida 33430
Boca Raton, City of 2500 NW 1 st Avenue Boca Raton, Florida 33431	Boynton Beach, City of 124 East Woolbright Road Boynton Beach, Florida 33435
Cloud Lake, Town of 100 Lang Road Cloud Lake, Florida 33406	Delray Beach, City of 100 NW 1 st Avenue Delray Beach, Florida 33444
Florida Department of Transportation District Four 3400 West Commercial Boulevard Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309	Florida Department of Transportation Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Post Office Box 9828 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33310
Glen Ridge, Town of 1501 Glen Road Glen Ridge, Florida 33406	Greenacres, City of 5750 Melaleuca Lane Greenacres, Florida 33463
Gulf Stream, Town of 100 Sea Road Gulf Stream, Florida 33483	Haverhill, Town of 4585 Charlotte Street Haverhill, Florida 33417-5911
Highland Beach, Town of 3614 South Ocean Boulevard Highland Beach, Florida 33487	Hypoluxo, Town of 7580 South Federal Highway Hypoluxo, Florida 33462
Indian Trail Improvement District 13476 61st Street North West Palm Beach, Florida 33412-1915	Juno Beach, Town of 340 Ocean Drive Juno Beach, Florida 33408

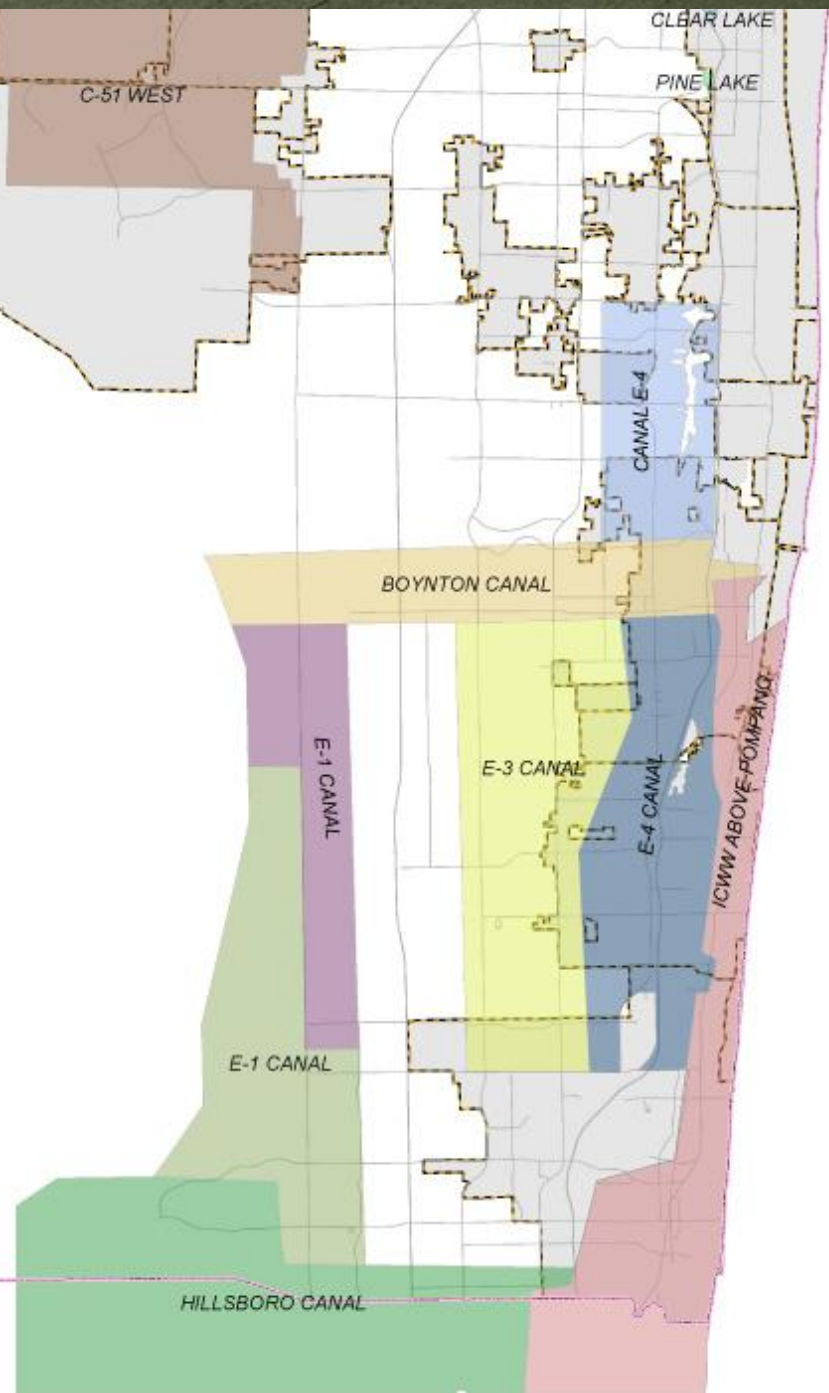
Nutrient Impaired Water Bodies within Palm Beach County

NEW RIVER CANAL (NORTH SEGMENT)

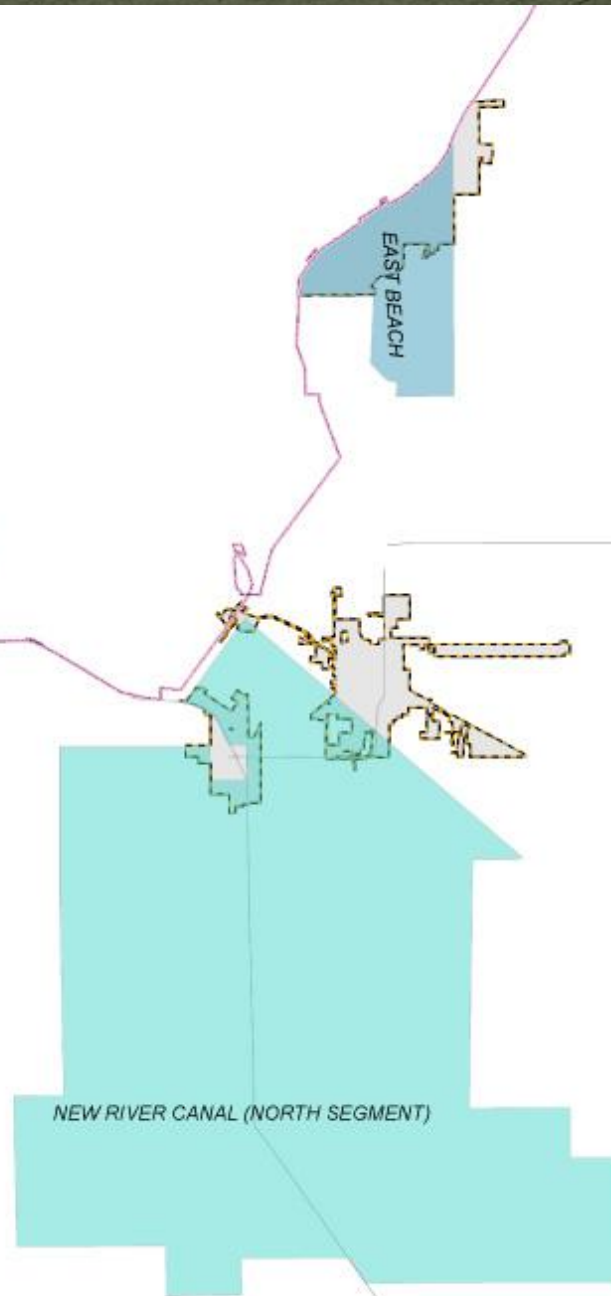


Nutrient Impaired Water Bodies within Palm Beach County

NEW RIVER CANAL (NORTH SEGMENT)



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

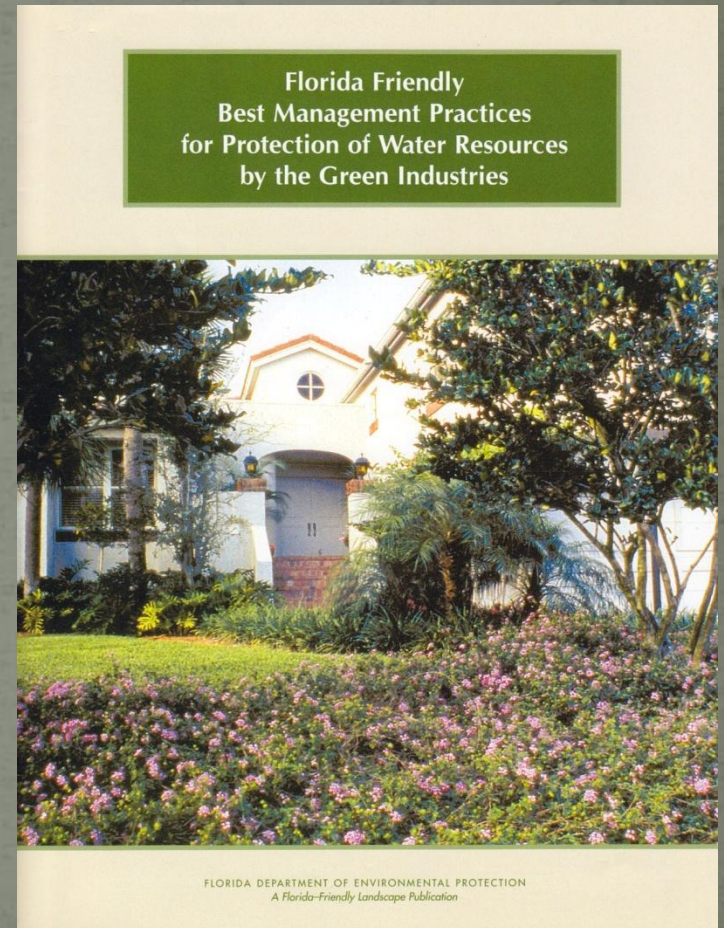
- Regulates the proper use of fertilizer by applicators
- Establishes training and licensing requirements
- Establishes a prohibited application period
- Specifies fertilizer free zones
- Specifies allowable application rates and methods
- Identifies exemptions
- Provides for enforcement and penalties

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.



Licensing

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 local tax collector’s office, prior to the business owner obtaining a Local Business Tax Certificate.

Licensing

2. After 31 December, 2013, all commercial applicators of fertilizer within Palm Beach County, 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.



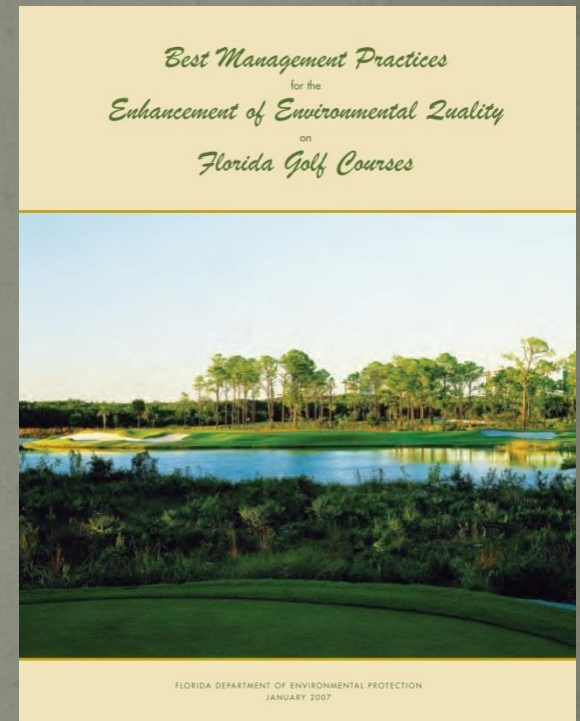
Allowable Application Rates

- 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.

	Lawn				Flower and Vegetable				Vegetable Garden	
	Broadcast		Rate		Broadcast		Rate		Row Rate	
	Rate		Coverage		Rate		Coverage		Rate	Rate
Fertilizer Blend	lbs/100 ft²	kg/100 m²	ft²	m²	lbs/100 ft²	kg/100 m²	ft²	m²	lbs/100 ft	kg/25 m
5-20-20	2	10	2700	250	5	21	1100	120	10-13.5	3.75-5
6-12-12	2	10	2700	250	4	20	1350	125	10-3	3.75-5
10-10-10	1.2	6	4600	420	2.5	12	2150	200	6-8	2.25-3
12-24-24	1	5	5500	500	2	10	2700	250	5-7	3.75-5
17-17-17	0.7	3.5	7900	710	1.5	7	3770	350	3.5-5	1.5-1.75
20-10-10	0.6	3	9200	830	1.6	8	3300	310	4-6	1.5-2.25
10-6-4 50% SCU	2	10	2700	250	3	15	1800	160	9-11	3.25-4.75
21-7-7 40% SCU	1	5	5500	500	1.6	8	3300	310	4-6	1.5-2.25
Pelletized Lime					*** Please Note *** All rates are approximate and may vary according to individual areas. Plant up-take of nutrients is governed by soil pH.					
16 kg Bag	4	20	880	80						
18 kg Bag	4	20	1000	90						
25 kg Bag	4	20	1300	125						

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.

[Home](#)[Steering Committee](#)[Permittees](#)[Meeting/Minutes](#)[Permit/FDEP Contacts](#)[Guidance Document](#)[Fert, Herb, and Pesticides](#)[Ind. / High-Risk Runoff](#)[Construction Site Runoff](#)[Written Procedures](#)[Public Education](#)[Training](#)[Monitoring Program](#)[Definitions](#)[Blank Forms](#)[Annual Reports](#)[TMDLs](#)[Links](#)[Comments](#)[Fing Lat and Long](#)

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

Updated: 9/13/2011

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

The presentation given by Mock 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@dep.state.fl.us or 850-245-7513.

The next Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for:
September 21, 2011 at
the Northern Palm Beach
County Improvement
District (NPBCID).

