

## FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PRINCIPLES

Following the principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping™ can help you comply with the fertilizer ordinance. For more information on the nine principles below, go to <http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu>.

- Right Plant. Right Place.
- Water Efficiently
- Fertilize Appropriately
- Mulch
- Attract Wildlife
- Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
- Recycle
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Protect the Waterfront



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**UF/IFAS Extension  
St. Lucie County**

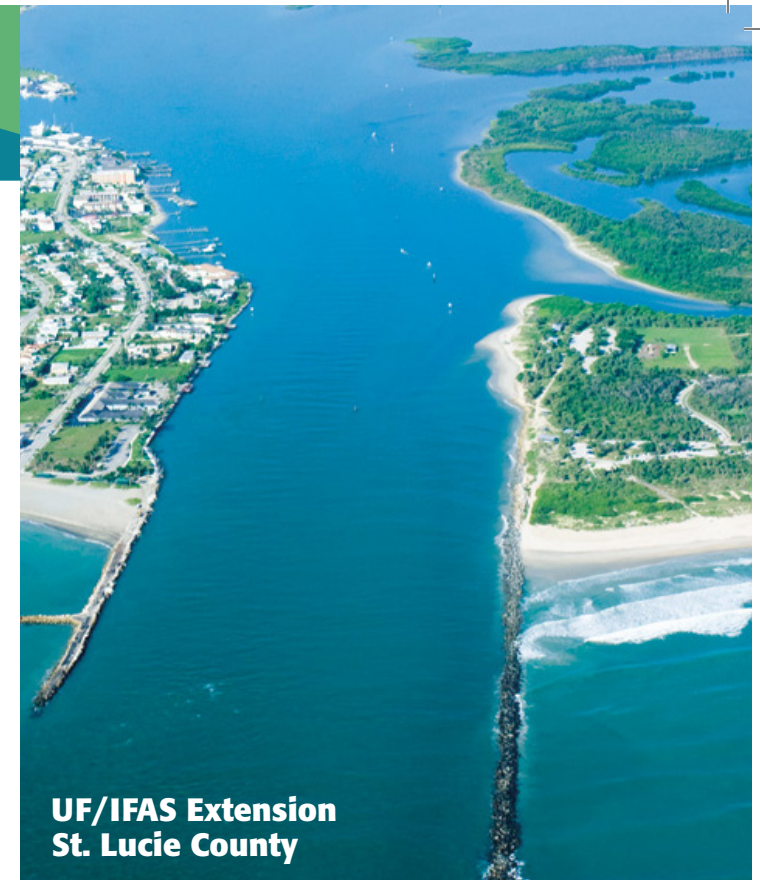
772-462-1660 | [stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu](http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu)

**St. Lucie County**

772-462-2511 | [www.stlucieco.org](http://www.stlucieco.org)

**City of Port St. Lucie**

772-344-4128 | [www.cityofpsl.com](http://www.cityofpsl.com)



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**Florida-Friendly  
Landscaping™ PROGRAM**



## Keep Yards Green and St. Lucie Waters Clean

A guide to St. Lucie County's and  
the City of Port St. Lucie's

Fertilizer Management Ordinance

Cover photo Photo Courtesy of the St. Johns River Water Management District

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## DID YOU KNOW THAT STORMDRAINS ARE NOT CONNECTED TO WATER TREATMENT PLANTS?

Stormdrains connect directly to our canals, rivers, and estuary. They carry rainwater away from urban areas to prevent flooding.

Yard waste entering stormdrains creates algae and uses up the oxygen that fish need to survive. Reducing runoff pollution in your yard is easy. What you do in your yard can make a big difference to our Indian River Lagoon.


The state of Florida requires all counties with impaired waterways to adopt a fertilizer management ordinance. High levels of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in St. Lucie waterways can impair water quality. Some of these nutrients can come from misapplication of fertilizer.

St. Lucie County's fertilizer management ordinance (No. 2014-3) and the City of Port St. Lucie's Code of Ordinances Chapter 44 affects everyone who applies fertilizer, including homeowners, landscape and lawn care professionals. It is intended to protect the water quality and the natural habitats of our waterways.

These Fertilizer Ordinances prohibit the disposal of yard waste into stormdrains. Violators could face penalties.

## HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU APPLY?

1. Know the size of your yard. Length x width = square feet. Then subtract the square footage of your house, driveway, or any permanent features for your yard size.
2. Read the label on the front of the fertilizer bag for N (nitrogen) content., then flip the bag over to determine amount of slow release Nitrogen. **This must be at least 50% Slow-Release Nitrogen (SRN).**
3. Look for 0% Phosphate (P). A soil test is required before adding P.

What To Look For On Your Fertilizer Label	
% of Total N as Slow-Release Nitrogen (SRN) =	
$\frac{10.6}{14} \times 100 = 75\%$	
(Meets 50% SRN St. Lucie County Requirement)	
	
GUARANTEED ANALYSIS	
TOTAL NITROGEN (N)	14.00 %
14.0% Urea Nitrogen (N)	
SOLUBLE PHOSPHORUS (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	0.00 %
SULFUR (S) Total	19.70 %
10.50% Free sulfur (S)	
9.20% Combined sulfur (S)	
IRON (Fe) Total	0.94 %
0.10% Water Soluble Iron (Fe)	
MANGANESE (Mn) Total	0.40 %
0.15% Water Soluble Manganese (Mn)	
DERIVED FROM: Polymer Coated Sulfur Coated Urea, Sulfate of Potash, Iron Oxide, Manganese Oxide.	
CHLORINE (Cl) Max.	2.00%
10.5% Slowly Available Urea Nitrogen from Polymer Coated Sulfur Coated Urea.	

## DO YOUR PART. FERTILIZE SMART!



**Wait 30.** Newly-installed landscapes can't efficiently use nitrogen, so do not apply fertilizer for the first 30 days.

**Step back 10.** Keep fertilizer at least 10 feet away from any wetland or body of water.

**Sweep it up.** Sweep any fertilizer granules that fall onto sidewalks, streets or driveways back onto the lawn.

**On your guard.** Use a deflector shield on your fertilizer spreader so you spread fertilizer only where you need it.

**Keep the clippings.** It is against the law to blow leaves or grass clippings into the roadway. Blow them back onto your lawn. They can supply some of the nitrogen your grass needs and reduce the amount of fertilizer needed.

**Watch the weather.** Do not fertilize on days when heavy rain is forecast. Rainstorms don't water in fertilizer. They wash it away, wasting your money and polluting our water.

**Follow the label.** Fertilizer applications should be made according to the manufacturer's label or as recommended by the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program.

**Go low maintenance.** Establish a low maintenance zone 10 feet from all water bodies. This area should be planted and managed for minimal watering and mowing, eliminating the need to fertilize.

**Apply it right.** Do not apply fertilizer that exceeds the recommended range for the plant species. Slow release nitrogen (coated) can not exceed one pound per 1,000 square feet. Look for the terms time-release, slow release or controlled-release on the product label.

You can not fertilize with Nitrogen and/or Phosphorus between June 1st and September 30th.

