



Growth Management Division  
Land Development Services

May 22, 2012

Re: Collier County Fertilizer Ordinance

Dear Homeowners Association:

To reduce the risk of fertilizer runoff contributing to nutrient pollution in county waters, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the “Collier County Florida-Friendly Use of Fertilizer on Urban Landscapes” ordinance, ordinance number 11-24, on July 26, 2011.

This letter is to inform you of some of the requirements of the ordinance. These requirements apply to both private residents and commercial landscaping businesses who apply fertilizers in Collier County.

Although golf courses are exempt from this ordinance, the golf course community as a whole is not exempt. Those areas that are outside the golf course – including residential areas, common areas, and medians – are subject to the requirements of this ordinance.

If your lawn/landscape is maintained by a commercial business that is applying fertilizer, make sure that the company has successfully completed the “*Florida-Friendly Best Management Practice for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries*” training. This course is offered locally by Project Greenscape (<http://www.rookerybay.org/professional-development/project-greenscape/gi-bmp>), or can be taken online at the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) website at <https://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu/gibmp/study/featureCourses-frame.faces>.

**Anyone** applying fertilizers in Collier County (private homeowners or commercial landscapers) are required to adhere to the following:

- **DON’T** leave fertilizer, grass clippings, or landscape trimmings on impervious surfaces (asphalt or concrete), or allow them to enter stormwater drains or ditches, wetlands, or waterways.
- **DON’T** apply fertilizer during identified storm “Watch” or “Warning” periods, or when soils are saturated.
- **DON’T** fertilize within 10 feet of a water body or wetland (3 feet with deflector or drop spreader).
- **DON’T** apply fertilizer at rates that are not consistent with the label instructions or with guidelines in Florida Administrative Code 5E-1.003 (<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?id=5E-1.003>).

Homeowners are also encouraged to follow UF-IFAS' Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program (<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowner.htm>), and these recommendations –

- More is not better when it comes to fertilizer.
- Use slow-release fertilizers.
- Always follow package directions.
- Fertilize when the grass is actively growing.
- Don't fertilize before a heavy rain.
- Measure your yard to determine how much fertilizer to buy. Know what you need and don't over feed.
- Remove all landscape trimmings within 10 feet of water bodies or wetlands.

If your property is located within City of Naples, please follow the City's fertilizer ordinance.

If you have questions regarding Collier County's fertilizer ordinance, please visit the website [www.dontoverfeed.com](http://www.dontoverfeed.com), or call (239) 252-5862.

Remember, we want our landscaping green, not our waterways!

Sincerely,

Steve Preston  
Senior Project Manager