

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has identified specific water bodies in Bonita Springs as "impaired" as a result of excess nutrients under the Florida Impaired Waters Rule.

- Detrimental effects of nutrient-laden runoff are magnified in a coastal community such as Bonita Springs.
- Surface water and base-flow runoff containing excess nutrients enter into natural and artificial storm water and drainage conveyances and water bodies.
- Nutrient laden runoff fosters plant and algae growth. Recent red tide blooms have heightened community concerns about water quality.
- The quality of our coastal waters is critical to our environment, economy and recreation.
- Even if you do not reside on a waterfront, the land is directly connected to a nearby water body.
- All yard work, especially nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers you apply, may have unintended consequences.

## Be a part of the solution

### to prevent water pollution.

**NO USE OF FERTILIZERS CONTAINING NITROGEN OR PHOSPHORUS**  
**JUNE 1ST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH**  
PER CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS  
ORDINANCE 08-23

<b>N</b> NITROGEN	<b>NO LESS THAN 50% SLOW RELEASE</b> NO MORE THAN 4 LBS PER YEAR (PER 1,000 FT)
<b>P</b> PHOSPHORUS	<b>NO MORE THAN 2%</b> .25 LBS PER APPLICATION 1/2 LBS PER YEAR (PER 1,000 FT)

**FERTILIZE WISE**  
ESPECIALLY DURING RAINY SEASON

**DON'T GUESS—TEST YOUR SOIL FIRST.** FERTILIZATION MAY NOT BE REQUIRED IF YOU ARE PLEASED WITH THE APPEARANCE, PLANTS ARE ESTABLISHED, OR YOU HAVE FLOWERS OR FRUIT. CONSULT YOUR GARDEN EXPERT FOR HELPFUL ALTERNATIVES.  
HELP PROTECT OUR SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER.

For more information on this subject:

#### University of Florida Extension:

Lee County Extension  
3406 Palm Beach Blvd  
Ft. Myers, FL 33916-3736  
Phone (239) 533-4327

#### Florida Yards and Neighborhoods:

Floridayards.org

#### South Florida Water Management:

1-800-432-2045

## FERTILIZE WISE

*Non professional landscapers are strongly encouraged to participate in the University of Florida IFAS Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Outreach and Public Education Program available at the Lee and Collier Cooperative Extension Service*

*Office.*

**For more information contact:**

**Lee County: 239-533-7503**

**Collier County: 239-417-6310 ext 231**

**-OR-**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**27300 Old 41 Rd**

**BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135**



# Best Management Practices of Fertilization

## TIMING OF APPLICATION

No one shall apply nitrogen or phosphorus to Turf or Landscape Plants during rainy season June 1st through September 30th.

## FERTILIZER CONTENT AND APPLICATION RATE



No phosphorus fertilizer shall be applied to turf or plants within Bonita Springs at application rates which exceed .25 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. per application or .50 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.

Fertilizers applied shall contain no less than 50% Slow Release Nitrogen

No more than 4 lbs of nitrogen per 1000 ft per calendar year.

## IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

Fertilizer released on an impervious surface must be immediately contained.

## BUFFER ZONES

No fertilizer shall be applied in or within 10 feet from the top bank of any water body, seawall or wetlands.

## MODE OF APPLICATION

Spreader deflector shields are required when fertilizing by use of any broadcast or rotary spreaders.

## LOW MAINTENANCE ZONES

A voluntary 6 foot low maintenance zone is strongly recommended from any pond, stream, water course, lake, wetland or sea-wall. A swale or berm system is recommended for installation at the landward edge of this low maintenance zone to capture and filter runoff.



## GRASS CLIPPINGS

No mowed or cut vegetative material shall be deposited or left remaining in the zone or deposited in the water.



## EXEMPTIONS

Newly established plantings less than 60 days.

Vegetable gardens not within 15 ft. of any water body or wetland.

Organic composts.

Bona fide agriculture.

Golf courses.

# FERTILIZE WISE



## CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS



## ORDINANCE

08-23