

# Fertilizer Ordinance Highlights

## Nitrogen Applications

You may apply fertilizer according to the instructions on the label, **no more than 2 to 4 times each year**, depending on the type of grass.

## Phosphate Applications

Phosphorus is generally not needed in lawn fertilizers. Look for a **zero-phosphate product**, unless a soil test indicates otherwise.

## Only Rain Down the Drain

A **deflector shield** is required on all broadcast spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied within 3 feet of any waterbody, wetland, street or driveway. **No grass clippings**, vegetative material, or vegetative debris may be deposited in stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, waterbodies or roadways.

## Fertilizer Applicators

**Certification is required** for all commercial and institutional applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners on their own property) from a City-approved Best Management Practices (BMP) training program.

## Choose a Product Intended for Turf

If you follow application instructions on the bag, you are not likely to exceed **1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet** as required by the City.

## Questions?

Call Stormwater Management at 891.6860

Visit [Talgov.com/Fertilizer](http://Talgov.com/Fertilizer) to read the City's fertilizer ordinance.

e+ Learning

Yard Care & Fertilizer

Application Guide

City of Tallahassee Utilities  
850.891.4YOU (4968)

[Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU)

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# Does Your Lawn Care Company

- » have a City-certified fertilizer applicator on site?
- » remove grass clippings from the roadway, storm drains and ditches?
- » use a Slow-Release Nitrogen (SRN) or Water-Insoluble Nitrogen (WIN) fertilizer product?
- » apply no more than the maximum allowable amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus?
- » use a deflector shield on all broadcast fertilizer spreaders?
- » promote the benefits of a low maintenance zone around waterbodies?
- » maintain a 3-foot fertilizer-free zone around waterbodies and wetlands?

## Why Care About Fertilizer?

It is much *easier* and *more cost-effective* to keep excess nutrients out of our waterbodies by following this guide than to remove the pollution once it is in the water. Due to years of excess fertilizer use, local waters have received too much nitrogen and phosphorus. Cleaning it up can be costly for our community.

# Fertilizer & Landscaping Information

## Restricted Periods

No fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall be applied in Tallahassee when these weather conditions are in effect:

- » A heavy rain is expected
- » A flood watch or warning
- » Tallahassee is in the three-day forecast track area for a tropical storm or hurricane watch/warning

## Fertilizer-Free Zone

No fertilizer may be applied to streets and driveways and any spillage must be removed. Fertilizer may not be applied within three (3) feet of any waterbody or wetland.

## Low-Maintenance Zone

A 6-foot low-maintenance zone of landscape plants appropriate to preventing fertilizer runoff is recommended for any waterbody or wetland.



## Always Check the Fertilizer Label First

Choose nitrogen fertilizers that contain at least 30 percent slow-release nitrogen (SRN) or water-insoluble nitrogen (WIN). To calculate SRN or WIN:

$$\frac{4.5}{15} \times 100 = 30\% \text{ SRN or WIN Nitrogen}$$

✓ (Meets Minimum Levels)



GUARANTEED ANALYSIS	
TOTAL NITROGEN (N).....	15.00%
15.00% Urea Nitrogen (N)*	
Soluble Potash (K2O) .....	15.00%
Sulfur (S) Total .....	19.70%
10.50% Free sulfur (S)	
9.20% Combined sulfur (S)	
IRON (Fe) Total .....	0.96%
0.19% Water Soluble Iron (Fe)	
MANGANESE (Mn) Total .....	0.48%
0.1% Water Soluble Manganese	
DERIVED FROM: Polymer Coated Sulfur Coated Urea	
Sulfate of Potash, Iron Oxide, Manganese Oxide	
Chlorine (Cl) Max .....	2.00%
<b>*4.50% Slowly Available Urea Nitrogen</b>	

Look for the *Slowly Available Urea Nitrogen* at the bottom of the fertilizer label. This is used in the SRN calculation above.