

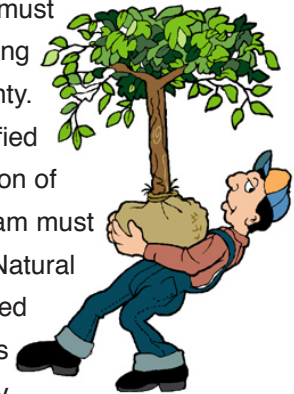
# LEE COUNTY FERTILIZER ORDINANCE (08-08)

**APPLICATION:** This ordinance applies to anyone performing lawn care and maintenance on turf and/or landscape plants within unincorporated Lee County as a “professional landscape business” or an “institutional landscaper”. This ordinance does not apply to individual homeowners who perform their own landscape maintenance.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This ordinance goes in to effect on May 13, 2009.

## **REGISTRATION:**

- All professional landscape businesses must register with Lee County prior to performing landscaping within unincorporated Lee County. At least one (1) employee must be a Certified Professional Landscaper. Proof of completion of a Lee County approved BMP training program must be provided to the Division of Lee County Natural Resources. At least one (1) BMP trained employee must be on site while fertilizers are applied. A registration decal provided by the division must be displayed on all company vehicles. NOTE: An example of a professional landscape business is any company you hire to perform landscaping at your home.
- All institutional landscapers must follow the same registration guidelines as professional landscape businesses with the exception of displaying a registration decal on company vehicles. NOTE: An example of an institutional landscaper is the in-house landscape maintenance staff at Shadow Wood.



## **TRAINING & CERTIFICATION:**

- Florida Green BMP training & certification can be completed through the Lee County Extension Service. This must be done prior to registration.
- Non-professional landscapers are not required to complete the Florida Green BMP training & certification, but are strongly encouraged to participate in the University of Florida IFAS Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Outreach & Public Education Program. This applies to individual owners of single-family residential units who perform lawn care and maintenance on turf and/or landscape plants.

**TIMING OF FERTILIZER APPLICATION:** Fertilizers containing Nitrogen (N) and/or Phosphorus (P) may not be applied on turf and/or landscape plants from June 1 through September 30.

**FERTILIZER CONTENT/APPLICATION RATE:**

- Phosphorus (P) in any fertilizer may not exceed a rate of 0.25 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. per application.
- Phosphorus (P) in any fertilizer may not exceed a rate of 0.50 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.
- All fertilizers applied must contain at least 50% slow release nitrogen (N).
- Nitrogen (N) in any fertilizer may not exceed a rate of 4 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.

**IMPERVIOUS SURFACES:** No fertilizers should be deposited, intentionally or accidentally, on an impervious surface such as a driveway, sidewalk or street.

**BUFFER ZONES:** No fertilizers shall be applied on turf and/or landscape plants within ten (10) feet of a water body, seawall or wetland. (See Florida DEP chapter 62-340)

**MODE OF FERTILIZER APPLICATION:** When using a rotary spreader, use of a deflector shield is required to deflect fertilizers away from water bodies, seawalls and wetlands.

**LOW MAINTENANCE ZONES (NO MOW):** A voluntary six (6) foot low maintenance zone is strongly recommended from any water body, seawall or wetland.

**GRASS CLIPPINGS/VEGETATIVE MATERIAL:** No grass clippings or vegetative materials shall be deposited into storm drains, ditches, water bodies, roadways or other impervious surfaces.

**EXEMPTIONS (ordinance does not apply to):**

- New landscaping in place for less than sixty (60) days.
- Vegetable gardens as long as they are not within fifteen (15) feet of a water body, seawall or wetland.
- Yard waste, compost or mulches applied to improve the soil.
- Reclaimed water used for irrigation which usually contains high amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Farm operations.
- Pastures used for grazing livestock.
- Golf courses.
- Specialized turf areas (parks, cemeteries, athletic fields, golf practice areas).

**ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES:**

- This ordinance shall be enforced by designated Lee County officials and/or inspectors.
- First violation...\$100.00
- Second violation...\$250.00
- Third and subsequent violations...\$500.00

