

Restricted Season

From June through September, do not apply fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus to lawns.

Nitrogen

Nitrogen fertilizer must contain at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen, and no more than four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet may be applied to turf or landscape plants each year.

Fertilizer-Free Zone

No fertilizer may be applied to impervious (non-porous) surfaces and any spillage must be removed. Fertilizer-free zones are also required around water bodies and wetlands though specifics vary by locality.

Phosphorus

Applications of phosphorus shall not exceed 0.25 pounds per 1,000 square feet at each application, nor exceed a total of 0.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet each year.

Grass Clippings

Keep grass clippings, vegetative material and other debris out of stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies and roadways.

Fertilizer Applicators

All commercial and institutional applicators of fertilizer must receive training and certification in Green Industries-Best Management Practices (GI-BMP). Private homeowners are required to follow local codes and are encouraged to comply with the UF/IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program.

Green Industry-Best Management Practices Training

Florida law requires that all commercial fertilizer applicators must have a license from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) by January 1, 2014. To obtain this license, each Green Industry worker must be trained in the Green Industry-Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) and receive a certificate of completion from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. GI-BMP Training programs are available online and through Sarasota County Extension.

More Information

UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension
sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu
941-861-5000

Sarasota County - Ord. No. 2007-062,
www.scgov.net - 941-861-5000

City of Venice - Ord. No. 2009-07,
www.venicegov.com

City of Sarasota - Ord. No. 2007-4768,
www.sarasotagov.com

Town of Longboat Key - Ord. No. 2008-04,
2008-07, www.longboatkey.org

City of North Port - Ord. No. 2007-45,
www.cityofnorthport

SARASOTA COUNTY'S Fertilizer & Landscape MANAGEMENT CODES

*Including City of Sarasota, City of Venice,
Town of Longboat Key, and
City of North Port*

UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension



University of Florida/IFAS Sarasota County Extension
Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34241
941.861.5000 • sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu



Fertilizer & Landscape Management Code Comparison Summary

HIGHLIGHTS OF CODE	SARASOTA COUNTY, CITY OF SARASOTA (incorporated area) AND CITY OF VENICE (incorporated area)	TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY (incorporated area)	CITY OF NORTH PORT (incorporated area)
Restricted Season	From June 1 through September 30, no fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall be applied to turf or landscape plants.	From June 1 through September 30, no fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall be applied to turf or landscape plants.	From June 1 through September 30, no fertilizer shall be applied to lawns. However, fertilizers can be applied to landscape plants.
Nitrogen Applications	Nitrogen fertilizer must contain at least 50 percent slowly available or slow-release nitrogen (SRN). No more than four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet may be applied to turf or landscape plants each year.	Nitrogen fertilizer must contain at least 50 percent slowly available or slow-release nitrogen (SRN). No more than four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet may be applied to turf or landscape plants each year.	Nitrogen fertilizer must contain at least 50 percent slowly available or slow-release nitrogen (SRN). No more than four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet may be applied to turf or landscape plants each year.
Phosphorus Applications	Shall not exceed 0.25 pounds per 1,000 square feet at each application, and shall not exceed a total of 0.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet per year.	Shall not exceed 0.25 pounds per 1,000 square feet at each application, and shall not exceed a total of 0.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet per year.	Shall not exceed 0.25 pounds per 1,000 square feet at each application, and shall not exceed a total of 0.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet per year.
Fertilizer-Free Zone	No fertilizer may be applied to impervious (non-porous) surfaces and any spillage must be removed. Fertilizer may not be applied within ten feet of any water body or wetland. Plants may be fertilized in this zone only for the first 60-day establishment period.	Fertilizer shall not be applied within three feet, or if applied by a broadcast spreader without deflector, the within ten feet, of any pond, stormwater drain, ditch, conveyance, canal, water body, top of seawall or wetland. Plants may be fertilized in this zone only for the first 60 day establishment period.	Do not spill fertilizer onto impervious surfaces. Do not apply fertilizer within ten feet of a pond, stream, canal or top of a seawall. If the distance between the edge of the water and the top of the bank is more than ten feet, do not apply fertilizer beyond the top of bank. Do not apply fertilizer within a wetland, or within the 25 feet buffer line of a wetland, or within the flow channel of any swales. Plants may be fertilized in this zone only for the first 60 day establishment period.
Low-Maintenance Zone	A six-foot low-maintenance zone of landscape plants appropriate to preventing fertilizer runoff is recommended for any water body or wetland.	Promotes the benefits of a low-maintenance zone around water bodies.	A voluntary six-foot vegetated low-maintenance zone is recommended to extend landward from the edge of a water body to reduce fertilizer runoff and increase nutrient uptake by the plants.
Deflector Shields	A deflector shield is required on all broadcast (rotary) spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied to impervious surfaces or within ten feet of any water body or wetland.	A deflector shield is required on all broadcast (rotary) spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied within three feet of any water body or wetland.	A deflector shield is required on all broadcast (rotary) spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied within ten feet of any water body or wetland.
Grass Clippings	No grass clippings, vegetative material, or vegetative debris may be washed, swept, blown, or otherwise deposited in stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, wetlands, or sidewalks or roadways.	No grass clippings, vegetative material, or vegetative debris may be washed, swept, blown, or otherwise deposited in stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, wetlands, or sidewalks or roadways.	No grass clippings or vegetative material may be washed, swept, blown, or otherwise deposited in water bodies or roadways.
Commercial and Institutional Applicators	All applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners on their own property) must receive training and certification in Green Industry-Best Management Practices (GI-BMP).	All applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners on their own property) must receive training and certification in Green Industry-Best Management Practices (GI-BMP).	All applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners on their own property) must receive training and certification in Green Industry-Best Management Practices (GI-BMP).
Enforcement	Enforcement actions will take place through the use of county Code Enforcement procedures or civil penalties.	Enforcement actions will take place through the use of Town Code Enforcement procedures or civil penalties.	Enforcement actions are stipulated within the City Code of Ordinance No. 07-45. A fine up to \$500 can be imposed per offense.

This brochure is intended as an educational introduction to fertilizer and landscape management codes throughout Sarasota County's municipalities and unincorporated areas. All applicators of fertilizer, including private residents and professional landscapers, maintain responsibility for understanding and abiding by applicable codes. For information about Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, please visit sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu