

Lagoon Fertilizing: Tips for the Seasons

Now that the fertilizer ordinance has been implemented around the Indian River Lagoon, many homeowners may be unaware of how to care for their yards. The ordinance prohibits the use of fertilizer from June 1st to September 30th, also known as the rainy season, to protect the Lagoon from the harmful excess nutrients being washed from your yard into the stormwater. When the ban is not in effect, the ordinance requires products with slow-release nitrogen to reduce the amount of nutrients running off. Here is a list of simple tips for taking care of your yard throughout the year.

During the Ban: June 1- September 30

- Do not fertilize with any product containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous. Both of these nutrients are illegal during the ban for both turf grass and landscape plants.
- You can add Florida-friendly yard products containing iron and/or other micronutrients to help keep your yard green and healthy.
- Swap your nutrient deficient soil for compost or other soil amendments.
- Go Florida-Friendly with your plants and they will automatically need less maintenance.

After the Ban: October 1- May 31

- Just fertilize twice a year. Fertilize in October which is near the end of the growing season, and in April at the start of the growing season.
- Do not fertilize before a rain event! Rain does not set in fertilizer, it just washes it away.
- Only use fertilizers that contain at least 50% slow release nitrogen and that contain NO phosphorous. Florida soils are naturally rich in phosphorous.