

# FERTILIZER

**MAINTAIN A THRIVING LAWN & GARDEN, WHILE KEEPING THE ST. JOHNS HEALTHY**

Fertilizer runoff is polluting the St. Johns River. Ordinance Chapter 366 aims to limit nitrogen pollution from fertilizers.

**LEARN MORE AT [COJ.NET/FERTILIZER](http://COJ.NET/FERTILIZER).**



# FERTILIZE APPROPRIATELY

When too much fertilizer is applied to landscapes, it seeps past the root zone of the grass, plants or trees and into the aquifer or runs off into the St. Johns River. If you choose to fertilize your lawn, follow these tips to help minimize your environmental impact on the St. Johns River:

- ✔ Fertilize lawns, trees and plants only to maintain health. Don't exceed recommended amounts. Fertilizer will not help poor growth caused by too much shade, disease or pests.
- ✔ Use slow-release fertilizers that make nutrients available to plants for a longer time.
- ✔ Use iron instead of nitrogen if you want to "green-up" your lawn.
- ✔ Hold off on fertilizing if a heavy rain is expected, and don't over irrigate after applying.
- ✔ Follow directions on packaging and use a drop spreader instead of a rotary spreader to apply fertilizer.
- ✔ Avoid "weed and feed" products.
- ✔ Establish a 10 foot minimum *no fertilizer, no pesticide zone* along your shoreline, or a six foot minimum *low maintenance plants zone* to absorb nutrients.

All fertilizers and chemicals can potentially harm our waterways. Please, use sparingly and with caution.

**For more information, please visit [coj.net/fertilizer](http://coj.net/fertilizer) or call 630-CITY.**

**In accordance with Ordinance Chapter 366 (Groundwater and surface Water Resource Management) Part 6 (Fertilizer Application) all homeowners, retailers and commercial fertilizer applicators must follow these requirements:**

- ✔ Clean up fertilizer spills.
- ✔ Do not apply fertilizer during flood or storm watches.
- ✔ Do not blow lawn clippings or leaves into streets, ditches or storm drains.
- ✔ Follow recommended fertilizer application rates and set-backs.
- ✔ Adjacent to water bodies, create a six-foot zone of landscape planting or ground cover that does not require intensive fertilizer, watering and mowing.
- ✔ Follow Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program practices ([fyn.ifas.ufl.edu](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu)).