

# Fertilizer Facts

Use Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices today to make a difference in your community. Fertilizers applied improperly can run off lawns into local springs, streams, lakes, rivers and, ultimately, into the gulf or ocean. The results can harm our water bodies — and even the plants and animals that depend on water for survival. Proper fertilizer application, however, can create a dense lawn that acts as a sponge to absorb pollutants from runoff.



Join the  
community effort to keep  
all our waters clean. It's easy.  
Here's how:

- ✓ Don't fertilize before a heavy rain.
- ✓ Sweep up any fertilizer spilled on paved areas or any excess on the lawn and place it back in the fertilizer bag.
- ✓ Use only slow-release fertilizer.
- ✓ Leave a 10-foot no-pesticide, no-fertilizer zone around water bodies.
- ✓ Fertilize no more than twice a year and only during the growing season.

Your efforts will go a long way in protecting our springs, lakes, rivers, bays and wildlife — the things that make living in west-central Florida special.

Fertilizing appropriately is one of the principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping. To learn more about this method of landscaping or the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program, call your county's Extension office or visit [WaterMatters.org/yards/](http://WaterMatters.org/yards/).

For free educational materials about Florida's water resources, visit our online order form at [WaterMatters.org/publications](http://WaterMatters.org/publications) or call 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4757.



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