

HOW TO FERTILIZE LIKE A FLORIDIAN

and adhere to Grant-Valkaria's Ordinance

Summer rains wash fertilizer into our creeks and into the Indian River Lagoon, harming the fragile ecosystem. That's why it's illegal in the Town of Grant-Valkaria to fertilize your lawn during the rainy season, and why slow-release fertilizer is required the rest of year.

JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Skip the fertilizer. Grant-Valkaria bans the use of lawn or landscape fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous from June 1 to September 30.

Pump some iron. Use Florida-friendly yard products that contain micronutrients to green up your lawn.

Get better dirt. Add compost, composted cow or chicken manure, perlite or other soil amendments.

Pick better plants. Florida-friendly landscapes need less fertilizer, water and overall care. Visit www.befloridian.org to learn more.

OCTOBER THROUGH MAY

Twice is nice. Fertilize just twice a year, in April and October.

Watch the weather. Rainstorms don't water in fertilizer, they wash it away.

Skip the phosphorous. Brevard County is naturally rich in phosphorous. Only use phosphorous-based fertilizer if a soil test turns up a deficiency.

Choose slow-release. The Grant-Valkaria ordinance requires lawn or landscape fertilizers with nitrogen to be at least 50% slow-release (also called timed-release or slowly available) from October 1 to May 31.



Seminars

on fertilizing and turf maintenance

Watch www.grantvalkaria.org

For dates of informative sessions with experts.

Sign up for emails at www.grantvalkaria.org



Enjoy Florida. It's where you live now.

BeFloridian.org



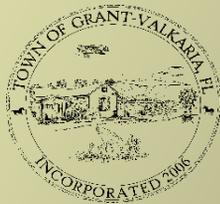
— SEVEN WAYS —

TO STEP IT UP AND KEEP OUR WATERS FUN

READY TO GO ALL OUT?

After all, our very way of life – boating, fishing, relaxing by the water while sipping drinks – is at stake.

- 1 Test your turf.** If the problem is a pH imbalance, pest invasion, or disease, fertilizer won't help. Call the Brevard County Extension Service for help at (321) 633-1702.
- 2 Perfect 10 (and 25).** Keep fertilizer at least 10 feet away from any body of water and 25 feet away from the Indian River Lagoon.
- 3 Sweep it up.** Whisk fertilizer granules off sidewalks, streets, and driveways. Otherwise it's algae food.
- 4 On your guard.** Use a spreader with a deflector shield or edge guard so you spread fertilizer only where you need it.
- 5 Keep the clippings.** Leave grass clippings right on your lawn. clippings can supply up to 50% of the nitrogen your grass needs.
- 6 Mow high.** Mowing too short stresses the turf and makes it vulnerable to disease, pests, and drought. Typical St. Augustine grass should be mowed at 3.5 to 4 inches.
- 7 Be Floridian.** What works in other states doesn't work here in the semi-tropics. Learn how to design your yard for where you live now at www.BeFloridian.org.



Read Grant-Valkaria's
Fertilizer Ordinance at
www.grantvalkaria.org



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