

Comparison / Summary
Sarasota County/City of Sarasota, Town of Longboat Key, City of North Port and Charlotte County
Fertilizer & Landscape Management Code

Highlights of Code	Sarasota County/City of Sarasota) Click here for specific PDF File	Town of Longboat Key Click here for specific PDF File	City of North Port (incorporated area) Click here for specific PDF File	Charlotte County (unincorporated area) Click here for specific PDF File	Lee County (unincorporated area)
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 10 feet of any water body or wetland.	Fertilizer shall not be applied within the Town within three (3) feet, or if applied by a broadcast spreader without a deflector, then within ten (10) feet, of any pond, stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, canals, top of seawalls, or water bodies, or within ten (10) feet of any wetland as defined by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Newly planted Turf and/or Landscape Plants may be fertilized in this zone only for the first sixty (60) day establishment period.	Don't spill fertilizer onto impervious surfaces. Don't apply fertilizer within 10 feet of a pond, stream, canal or top of a seawall. If the distance between the edge of the water of a pond and the top of the bank is more than 10 feet, don't apply fertilizer beyond the top of bank. Don't apply fertilizer within a wetland, or within the 25 feet buffer line of a wetland, or within the flow channel of any swales.	No fertilizer may be applied to impervious (non-porous) surfaces, and any spillage must be removed. Fertilizer may not be applied within 10 feet of any water body or wetland (or 3 feet if a deflector shield is used.)	Mandatory 10 foot fertilizer free buffer zone near all water bodies and wetlands measured from top of bank.
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 6 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.	A 6-foot low maintenance zone of landscape plants appropriate to preventing fertilizer runoff is recommended for any water body or wetland.	
Restricted Season	No fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall be applied to turf or landscape plants between June 1-Sept. 30 of each year.	No fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall be applied to turf or landscape plants between June 1-Sept. 30 of each year.	From June 1 through September 30, no fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus shall be applied to lawns. However, fertilizers can be applied to landscape plants.	No restricted season.	Fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus shall not be applied June 1-September 30.
Deflector Shields	A deflector shield is required on all broadcast spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied within 10 feet of any water body or wetland.	A deflector shield is required on all broadcast spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied within 3 feet of any water body or wetland.	A deflector shield is required on all rotary broadcast spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied within 10 feet of any water body or wetland.	If fertilizing within 3-10 feet from a water body or wetland, a deflector shield must be used on all broadcast spreaders. Fertilizer may not be applied within three feet of the water body or wetland.	A spreader deflector must be used when applying fertilizer to lawns near impervious surfaces and water bodies.
Grass Clippings	No grass clippings, vegetative material or vegetative debris may be deposited in stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies or roadways.	No grass clippings, vegetative material or vegetative debris may be deposited in stormwater drains, conveyances, water bodies or roadways.	No grass clippings or vegetative material may be deposited in water bodies or roadways.	No grass clippings, vegetative material, or vegetative debris may be deposited in stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, or roadways.	
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 lbs/1000 sq ft per application, nor exceed 0.5 lbs/1000 sq ft 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 phosphorus application; 0.25 lbs/1000 ft2 per application. Apply no more than 0.50 lbs. P2O5/1000 ft2 per calendar year.
Nitrogen Applications	Nitrogen fertilizer must contain at least 50 percent slowrelease nitrogen. 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 slow-release nitrogen. 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% Slowly Available or Slow Release Nitrogen (SRN). No more than 4 lbs/1000 sq ft per year may be applied to turf.	Nitrogen fertilizer must contain at least 50% slow-release nitrogen. Applicators shall follow and not exceed FDACS, Urban Turf Fertilizer rule 5E-1.003 Labels or Tags' Fertilization Guidelines for Established Turf-Grass Lawns South Region.	Fertilizer nitrogen content and application; no less than 50% slow-release. Apply no more than 4 lbs of nitrogen per 1000 ft2 per calendar year.
Commercial and Institutional Fertilizer Applicators	All applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners on their own property) must receive training and certification in a Sarasota County-approved Best Management Practices (BMP) training program.	All applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners on their own property) must receive training and certification in a Sarasota County-approved Best Management Practices (BMP) training program.	All commercial and institutional applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners applying fertilizer on their own property) must receive training and certification in a City approved training program that is provided by the Sarasota County Extension Service.	All applicators of fertilizer (except homeowners on their own property) must receive training and certification in a Charlotte County-approved Best Management Practices (BMP) training program.	Landscape businesses must have at least one Best Management Practices (BMP) certified employee in order to register with the county and to continue working in Lee County. • There must be at least one BMP certified employee on site when fertilizer is being applied.
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. Note Section 102.08 Record Retention of Ordinance 2008-04.	Enforcement actions are stipulated within the City Code of Ordinance No. 07-45. A fine up to \$500 can be imposed per offense.	Enforcement actions will take place through the use of county code enforcement procedures or civil penalties.	Lee County has a one (1) year grace period from the date of passage before the ordinance goes into effect however violators will be subject to a warning. The ordinance will be fully effective starting May 13, 2009.

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