For Hire Fertilizer Applicators

For hire fertilizer applicators are required to:

- Be GI-BMP Certified.
- Have a FDACS Limited Urban Fertilizer Certification (aka LUF license).
- Display a vehicle decal from the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (HCEPC).

HOW TO BECOME GI-BMP CERTIFIED

1. Attend a GI-BMP training class.
2. Score a minimum of 75% on the post-test.

For more information on the GI-BMP program and class schedules scan this QR code or go to the URL below.

https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/ffl-and-you/gi-bmp-program/

HOW TO GET THE FDACS LUF LICENSE

1. Complete the FDACS on-line application. You will need your GI-BMP certificate number.
2. Pay the $25 fee.
3. The license renews every 4 years with 4 continuing education units (CEUs): 2 Core and 2 LUF.

To apply for and pay for the FDACS LUF license scan this QR code or go to the URL below and choose New Urban Landscape Commercial Fertilizer.

https://aesecomm.fdacs.gov/Default.aspx?type=EPC

HOW TO GET THE HCEPC VEHICLE DECAL

Submit a copy of your GI-BMP training certificate and the application to the HCEPC. Scan this QR or go to the URL below to access the application.

https://www.epchc.org/home/showpublished-document/578/636608694593430000

County Residents/ Homeowners

Residents and homeowners are required to comply with the fertilizer ordinance seasonal and year-round restrictions.

Residents and homeowners applying fertilizer to their own property are not required to be GI-BMP certified or have a FDACS license.

Resources

UF/IFAS Florida Friendly Landscaping™ website
https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/

Hillsborough County Fertilizer Ordinance webpage
https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/sustainability-and-green/fertilizer-ordinance-and-regulation

For more information contact:

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Funding for this project is provided by the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County Pollution Recovery Fund.

Clean Water BENEFITS US ALL

All About the Hillsborough County Fertilizer Ordinance

The Hillsborough County Fertilizer Ordinance is intended to reduce non-point source water pollution (NPSP) from urban stormwater run-off and leaching.

NPSP comes from oil, pet waste, landscape debris, pesticides, fertilizer, sediments, faulty septic tanks, atmospheric deposition, or any other contaminant that ends up on the ground due to natural or human activity.

Rainfall and excess irrigation carries pollutants to ponds, lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters.

NPSP can reduce water quality used for drinking and recreation, and harm ecosystems, quality of life and the economy.

This brochure is intended to help you understand Fertilizer Ordinance 21-42 and ensure cleaner water for current and future residents of Hillsborough County.

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Hillsborough County Florida

Fertilizer Ordinance Rules

SEASONAL RESTRICTION

No fertilizers containing nitrogen (N) or phosphorous (P) can be applied to landscapes from June 1st to September 30th unless exempted in Ord. 21-42.

YEAR-ROUND APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS

Nitrogen (N) fertilizer must:

- Contain at least 50% slow-release N.
- Have a maximum application rate of 1.0 lb. of N/1000 sq. ft. per application.
- Have no more than 4.0 lbs. of N/1000 sq. ft. applied annually.
- Look for slowly available, controlled release, water insoluble, or time-release fertilizer.

Quick-release/soluble nitrogen (N) must:

- Have a maximum application rate of 0.5 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft. per application.
- Have no more than 4.0 lbs. of N/1000 sq. ft. applied annually.

Applications before or after planting sod:

N cannot be applied for 30 days before or after planting sod/turfgrass.

Phosphorous (P) containing fertilizers

Cannot be applied unless a soil test performed by a licensed lab show a phosphorous deficiency.

All broadcast or rotary spreaders

Are required to have a deflector shield which deflects fertilizer granules away from impervious surfaces and water bodies.

Exempted from above restrictions:

Golf courses, athletic fields, bona fide farm operations, and vegetable and fruit gardens.

Weather restrictions:

Fertilizers cannot be applied when it is raining, within 24 hours of a rain event where 2 or more inches of rain is predicted or when the National Weather Service has issued advisories for a warning or watch for any of the following: severe thunderstorms, flood, tropical storm or hurricane.

Water body protection:

- Fertilizer cannot be applied within ten (10) feet of any surface water body.
- A six-foot low maintenance, no mow zone should be maintained around all water bodies.

Fertilizer and landscape debris on impervious surfaces:

- Shall be immediately and completely removed.
- Swept up or blown onto the landscape or contained to prevent it being moved into stormwater drains, ditches, drainage conveyances, roadways or surface waters.

Read the Hillsborough County Ordinance 21-42 by scanning this QR code and then download on your device.

Figuring Fertilizer Rates

HOW TO READ A FERTILIZER LABEL EXAMPLE

Guaranteed Analysis

Total Nitrogen (N) 15%

15.00% Urea Nitrogen*

Phosphorous (P_2O_5) 0%

Soluble Potassium (K_2O) 15%

Iron (Fe) 5%

Sulfur (S) 19%

***7.5% Nitrogen slowly available from Polymer Sulfur Coated Urea.**

DETERMINING SLOW-RELEASE NITROGEN

Divide the slowly available nitrogen percent by the total nitrogen percent and multiply by 100:

7.5% / 15.00% X 100 = 50% Slow-Release

DETERMINING HOW MUCH FERTILIZER IS NEEDED TO APPLY 1.0 LB. OF N/1000 SQ. FT.

All the components of a fertilizer add up to 100%. Inert ingredients bind or coat the product or reduce product dust and have no nutritional value.

Divide 100% by the total nitrogen %:

100% / 15.00% = 6.7 lbs.

6.7 pounds of the 15-0-15 fertilizer is needed to deliver 1.0 lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.

For a 3000 sq. ft. area multiply 6.7 by 3:

6.7 lbs./1000 sq. ft. X 3 = 20 lbs.

20 lbs. of 15-0-15 needed to cover 3000 sq. ft.