

Know Your Lawn Care Professional Checklist



How we maintain our yards has a big impact on our surrounding environment. Excessive water use, improper fertilization, or blowing grass clippings/leaves down the storm inlets/drains can degrade our waterways. A knowledgeable and well-trained lawn care professional will manage your yard through a series of “best management practices” that benefit you and the environment. Does your lawn care professional have the proper training and certification? Use this checklist to better know your lawn care professional, your yard, and your role in the environment!



ARE THEY QUALIFIED?

- Is your lawn care professional Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) certified?** GI-BMP is a 6-hour training program administered by the University of Florida’s Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He/she should be able to show you a certificate or wallet card.
- If they are applying fertilizer, does your lawn care professional have a Commercial Applicators License?** The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) requires all commercial applicators to obtain this license if they apply fertilizers.



DO THEY KNOW YOUR YARD?

- Have they had your soil tested for pH or phosphorus deficiency?**
- Do they know the square footage of your yard in order to apply the right amount of fertilizer?**



DO THEY FOLLOW THE SEMINOLE COUNTY FERTILIZER ORDINANCE?

- Have they discussed your fertilizer regime with you?**
A general recommendation is a complete fertilizer in spring (late March- early May), a summer blend in June – September (no Nitrogen or Phosphorus allowed) and a complete fertilizer application in the fall (October). This is suitable for St. Augustine and Zoysia grass, but not Bahia grass.
- If you irrigate with reclaimed water, has your applicator reduced the amount of fertilizer they use accordingly?**
- Do not allow applicators to apply fertilizer within 24 hours of a heavy rain event or when soils are saturated.**
- Make sure the fertilizer they apply to your lawn is at least 65% or more Slow-Release Nitrogen (SRN).** Check out the Seminole County fertilizer calculator at www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertcalculator.
- Make sure they clean up spills so that no fertilizer is left on any driveway or sidewalk.**
- After your applicator fertilizes, make sure to water the fertilizer into the lawn with ¼ inch of irrigation water.**
- Do not allow applicators to fertilize within 15 feet of a waterbody or wetland.** A deflector shield is required when using a broadcast or rotary spreader.



HOW DO THEY CLEAN UP?

- Make sure lawn care professionals do not leave grass clippings, fallen leaves, or other debris on streets, sidewalks, or other impervious surfaces. They should blow them back onto the lawn or bag them.**
- Make sure lawn care professionals are not blowing your grass clippings and leaves into the storm inlets/drains.**

Want to learn more? Visit FertilizeFlorida.com or call 407-665-5575.