



Fertilizer Ordinance Basics for Retail Lawn & Garden Staff

HOW TO READ A FERTILIZER LABEL

Have you ever wondered what the numbers on the fertilizer label mean? They show the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content, always in that order.

26 — **0** — **11**
Nitrogen (N) Phosphorus (P) Potassium (K)

Ordinance Applies to Turf and Landscape Plants



Does not apply to:

- Farms
- Recreational/Athletic Turf
- Vegetable Gardens
- Fruit Trees unless within 15 feet of a waterbody

Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance

No P anytime unless a soil test shows it is needed

Observe restricted period June 1st-Sept 30th

No N or P

Minimum 65 % Slow-release N

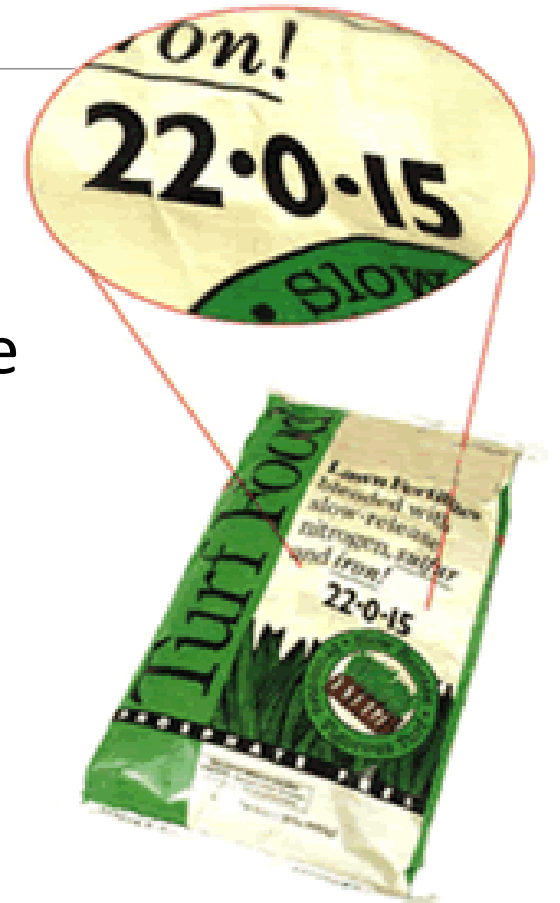
Do not fertilize within 15 ft of any waterway

Do Not Fertilize 24 hours before a Rainstorm

Always sweep up Fertilizer on Pavement

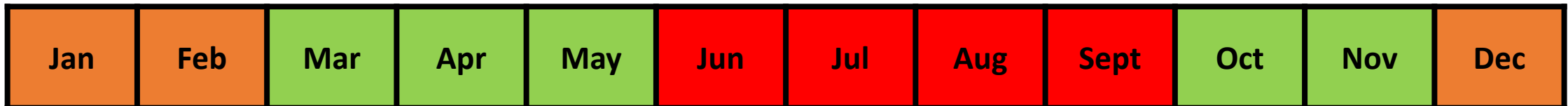
Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer

- All plants need phosphorus
- Almost all Florida soils naturally have all the phosphorus plants need and therefore it should not be applied
- Phosphorus can only be applied if a soil test shows your yard has a deficiency



Don't Let Fertilizers Wash Away In Rain

- Never fertilize within 24 hours of a rain event
- Because it rains (and rains hard!) frequently in the summer, there is a restricted season on fertilizers with **nitrogen** and **phosphorus**
- June 1 – September 30 is the **RESTRICTED SEASON (See Next Slide)**



“Summer Blend” fertilizers contain **NO** Nitrogen or Phosphorus and can be applied anytime. They will contain one or more of the following beneficial Nutrients:

POTASSIUM

helps grass withstand stress, drought, and disease.

IRON

enhances color and gives plants oxygen.

MAGNESIUM

aids photosynthesis and gives grass its healthy green hue.

MANGANESE

enhances disease resistance.

ZINC & BORON

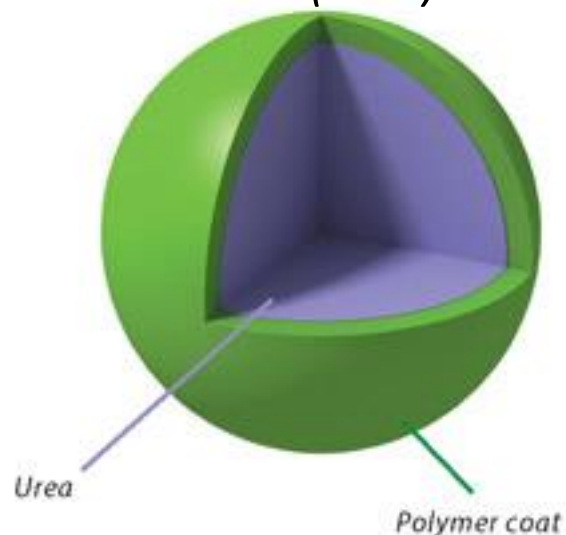
ensure plants maintain continuous, healthy growth.

There are many types of “Summer Blend” products available at local retail stores. Here are just a few:



What is Slow Release Nitrogen (SRN)?

Also “controlled release” (CR) or “water insoluble” (WIN)



Our county fertilizer ordinances require at least 65% slow release N



20-0-10

Sample of Guaranteed Analysis Label of back of fertilizer bag

TOTAL NITROGEN (N)	20.00%
20.00% Urea Nitrogen*	
SOLUBLE POTASH (K₂O)	10.00%
MAGNESIUM (Mg) Total	1.00%
1.00% Water Soluble Magnesium (Mg)	
SULFUR (S) Total	8.35%
6.25% Free Sulfur (S)	
2.10% Combined Sulfur (S)	
IRON (Fe) Total	6.00%
0.06% Water Soluble Iron (Fe)	
MANGANESE (Mn) Total	1.00%
0.14% Water Soluble Manganese (Mn)	
DERIVED FROM: Polymer Coated Sulfur Coated Urea, Muriate of Potash, Iron Sucrate, Manganese Sucrate, Sulfate of Potash-Magnesia	
CHLORINE (Cl) Max	6.00%

*14.00% Slowly Available Urea Nitrogen from Polymer Coated Sulfur Coated Urea.

Does Your Fertilizer Contain at Least 65% Slow Release N?

Find the total and slow release nitrogen percentage

Divide the **Slow Release %** by the **Total Nitrogen %**.

$$14 \% \text{ slow release} / 20 \% \text{ total}$$

$$= 0.70 \text{ (or 70 \%)}$$

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Keep Fertilizer Where It Belongs!

Use a **deflector shield** near water, sidewalks, etc.



Do not fertilize within 15' of any waterbody. It is recommended to leave at least a 10' maintenance-free zone next to waterfront



Image Courtesy UF / IFAS Extension FYN Program

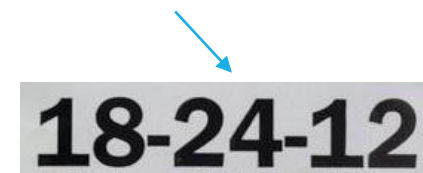
Are You Choosing The Right Fertilizer?

- Many of the common “Turf” fertilizers are not suitable for Florida

- High Nitrogen with little Potassium



- Unnecessary levels of Phosphorus



- Potassium should be at least half the Nitrogen level



Thank you! Any questions?

Tom Sacher, Fertilizer Educator,
Seminole County,
tsacher@seminolecountyfl.gov
407-665-5517

