

Proposed SC Fertilizer Ordinance vs. Model Ordinance Comparison

Item	Model Ordinance	Seminole County	Notes
Summer Fertilizer Restrictions	No requirement	Apply only summer blend fertilizer formulations, which contain iron, potassium and other micronutrients, but no nitrogen (N) or phosphorus (P) between June 1 and September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using fertilizers that don't contain N or P during the wet summer season reduces the amount of leaching and runoff that reaches our surface waterbodies and springs. • Excess N and P are the cause of algae blooms and other water quality and ecological problems. • Detailed studies identified 15% of N affecting the Wekiva Spring system is attributed to residential fertilizer. • Volusia, Brevard & Orange Counties all have the same summer fertilization restrictions. • Summer blend fertilizer formulations are already used by industry professionals and are available in retail settings.
Slow-Release Fertilizers	No recommendations	At least 50% slow release nitrogen (SRN) content when adopted and then increased to a minimum of 65% SRN after three years of adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% SRN is already readily available in retail stores. • Cost of 50% SRN is lower than or comparable to other formulations. • The higher the percentage of SRN, the longer it lasts, and needs to be applied less often. • Orange, Brevard & Volusia ordinances all require 50% SRN. • The use of 50 to 65% SRN decreases the potential for getting into waterbodies by an estimated 67% to 86%, respectively.

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Fertilizer-Free Zone	No fertilizer within 10 ft from top of bank of any surface waterbody, wetland or seawall or 3 ft with a deflector shield	No fertilizer within 15 ft from top of bank of any surface waterbody, wetland or seawall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It provides more buffer to protect waterbodies from direct fertilizer impact. • This is consistent with Brevard & Volusia ordinances.
Ordinance Exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golf Courses, parks and athletic fields (must follow specified guidance manuals) • Agriculture, including Right to Farm Act sites, pastures used for livestock grazing not under the Right to Farm Act • Lands used for scientific research 	Same exemptions as model except for addition of fruit and vegetable gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This added exemption for fruit and vegetable gardens was included to allow for proper fertilization of fruit trees or gardens not covered under the Right to Farm Act.
Reclaimed Water	No mention	Reduce fertilizer nitrogen (N) application rates appropriately where reclaimed water is used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclaimed water is widely variable in its N concentrations. • Depending on the source of reclaimed water and its concentrations of N, fertilization may not be necessary at all. • The County Fertilizer website will provide information on local reclaimed nutrient (N) concentrations, as well as a calculator to help determine how much additional fertilizer, if any, is needed.
Enforcement	No mention	Staff from the Watershed Management Division will conduct the authorized code enforcement activities for any violations to this ordinance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the ordinance is to provide education.

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Local County Ordinances that include summer restrictions on Nitrogen and Phosphorus:

Pinellas County
 Indian River County
 Lee County
 Manatee County
 Martin County
 Orange County*
 Sarasota County
 Volusia County
 Brevard County
 St. Lucie County

Adjacent County	At least 50% slow release nitrogen	10 ft fertilizer free zone without exception next to water bodies	Rainy season restrictions June 1-Sept 30
Brevard	Yes	Yes (15 ft)	Yes
Volusia	Yes	Yes (15 ft)	Yes
Orange*	Yes	Yes (10 ft)	Yes (commercial applicators and homeowners that complete online educational program are exempt)