

Proposed SC Fertilizer Ordinance vs. Model Ordinance Comparison

Item	Model Ordinance	Seminole County	Rationale
Restricted Season/Blackout Period	No requirement	No application of nitrogen or phosphorus products between June 1 and September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer rain occurs frequently (every 1.7 days), saturating the soil, leading to more runoff. Saturated soils are prone to runoff or leaching with little or no additional water, and pose a higher than normal risk until soil moisture capacity is restored. Fertilizer management is largely about keeping the nitrogen and/or phosphorus in the root zone where it can be used by plants. Periods of heavy rainfall contribute to leaching. • Studies conducted on Lee County ponds & Roberts Bay pre and post fertilizer summer restricted season showed declines in Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) concentrations. • To date, no known research has shown any reduction in turf quality as a result of the wet season fertilizer bans. • The IFAS Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) Handbook has recommended against summer applications of fertilizers for over 20 years & suggests that iron can be substituted for N to enhance turf grass color during the summer season.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volusia, Brevard & Orange Counties all have the same restricted season. • Manufacturers have already developed & utilize “summer blends” (containing iron & potassium) that green up lawns w/out N & P to meet other local govt. ordinance requirements. Therefore, no negative impact on related industries.
Slow-Release Fertilizers	No recommendations	At least 50% slow release nitrogen content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for slow-release fertilizers have been part of the FYN Handbook since the 1990s. • IFAS Bulletin SL-21 titled “General Recommendations for Fertilization of Turf Grasses on Florida Soils” recommends that N applications should involve a blended fertilizer product containing no more than 50% of the total N in soluble form with the rest of the N as a slow-release product. • Several studies recommend a mixture of soluble and slow-release N sources is for use on turf grasses. • Consistent with Orange, Brevard & Volusia ordinances.
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 10 ft from top of bank of any surface waterbody, wetland or seawall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with low maintenance zone, making it simpler to follow. • Consistent w/IFAS FFL recommendations and all other

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			local county ordinances (Volusia, Brevard, Orange).
Ordinance Exemptions	Golf Courses, parks and athletic fields (must follow specified guidance manuals) ; Right to Farm Act sites, pastures used for livestock grazing not under the Right to Farm Act; lands used for scientific research	Exemptions remained the same as model except for addition of fruit and vegetable gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add fruit or vegetable gardens to allow for proper fertilization of fruit trees or gardens not covered under the Right to Farm Act (less stringent)
Reclaimed Water	No mention	Reduce fertilizer application rates appropriately where reclaimed water is used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondarily-treated reuse water has characteristics which are often similar to the chemical characteristics of septic tank leachate. • Typical effluent concentrations for tertiary treated runoff are <3 mg/l for total nitrogen and <1 mg/l for total phosphorus. • Depending on the concentration of N & P in the reuse water, the addition of these nutrients may be unnecessary.
Enforcement	No mention	Staff from the Watershed Management Division would conduct the authorized code enforcement activities for any violations to this ordinance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal is to provide education, with enforcement used as a last resort, as with our other ordinances.

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Local County Ordinances that include restricted season (summer black out period):

Pinellas County
 Indian River County
 Lee County
 Manatee County
 Martin County
 Orange County, except for certified applicators
 Sarasota County
 Volusia County
 Brevard County

County	At least 50% slow release nitrogen	10 ft fertilizer free zone without exception next to water bodies	Rainy season ban June 1-Sept 30
Brevard	Yes	Yes (15 ft)	Yes
Volusia	Yes	Yes (15 ft)	Yes
Orange	Yes	Yes	Yes (commercial applicators and homeowners that complete online educational program are exempt)
Osceola	No	Yes (3 ft with deflector shield)	No
Marion	No	Yes (15-100 ft)	No