



THE RIVER ACCORD

A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ST. JOHNS

City of Jacksonville Fertilizer and Irrigation

CONTACT INFORMATION

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On July 22, 2008, the City of Jacksonville adopted two new laws to be codified in Chapter 366 of the Ordinance Code. The fertilizer ordinance will assist in meeting the Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for the St. Johns River as set forth by State and Federal regulations, by addressing fertilizer application and storage practices for retail garden centers, commercial fertilizer applicators and homeowners. The irrigation ordinance enacts landscape irrigation restrictions and requirements that are based upon the St. Johns River Water Management District's model ordinance to minimize runoff and conserve water.

Fertilizer

Retail Garden Centers:

- Recommend supervisors attend best management practice (BMP) training
- Follow storage and spill requirements
- Provide literature to customers

Commercial Fertilizer Applicators:

- Follow green industries BMP
- Provide literature to customers

Homeowners:

- Follow Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program practices
- Phase-in a six foot zone of landscape planting or ground cover which does not require intensive fertilizer, watering and mowing, adjacent to water bodies

Everyone:

- Clean up fertilizer spills
- Do not apply fertilizer during flood or storm watches
- Do not blow clippings into streets or drainage ditches
- Follow recommended nitrogen application rates

What are BMPs?

The State of Florida commissioned and adopted best practices for management of landscape and turf grass to minimize environmental consequences. Topics addressed in detail in the BMP training include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental issues and protections • Plant selection, planting, care • Irrigation system design, installation and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mulching, mowing, pruning • Fertilization • Pest control • Safety • Spill cleanup planning and training
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Irrigation

The city ordinance applies to landscaping regardless whether water comes from a private well or utility.

City ordinance will:

- Enforce own local requirements
- Not apply to the Beaches and Baldwin

Water Management District Rules apply to:

- Golf courses
- Nurseries
- Ball fields
- Agricultural crops
- Landscaping around buildings, drives, property boundaries

Year round requirements:

- Homeowners with odd addresses may only water lawns on Wednesday and Saturday
- Homeowners with even addresses may only water lawns on Thursday and Sunday
- Non-residential buildings may only water lawns on Tuesday and Friday
- All watering applications must be apply $\leq \frac{1}{2}$ " of water on each watering day

Exceptions to watering limits:

- May water 24 hours after applying chemicals
- To allow for maintenance and repair of irrigation system (10 minutes per zone)
- May water new landscape 30 days any time and every other day for 30 additional days

Exceptions – allow any day, any time:

- Discharges from air to water heating or cooling units
- Hand-held irrigation using shutoff nozzle
- Micro-irrigation (apply at root)
- Soak / drip / small spray heads

Hours apply but days not limited:

- Retention ponds if not augmented from other sources
- Reclaimed water
- Recycled water (stormwater)

Approach to achieve compliance:

- Education
- Warning
- Enforcement

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