

# HOW TO FERTILIZE LIKE A FLORIDIAN

*and adhere to Grant-Valkaria's Ordinance*

Summer rains wash fertilizer into our creeks and into the Indian River Lagoon, harming the fragile ecosystem. That's why it's illegal in the Town of Grant-Valkaria to fertilize your lawn during the rainy season, and why slow-release fertilizer is required the rest of year.

## JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

**Skip the fertilizer.** Grant-Valkaria bans the use of lawn or landscape fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous from June 1 to September 30.

**Pump some iron.** Use Florida-friendly yard products that contain micronutrients to green up your lawn.

**Get better dirt.** Add compost, composted cow or chicken manure, perlite or other soil amendments.

**Pick better plants.** Florida-friendly landscapes need less fertilizer, water and overall care. Visit [www.befloridian.org](http://www.befloridian.org) to learn more.

## OCTOBER THROUGH MAY

**Twice is nice.** Fertilize just twice a year, in April and October.

**Watch the weather.** Rainstorms don't water in fertilizer, they wash it away.

**Skip the phosphorous.** Brevard County is naturally rich in phosphorous. Only use phosphorous-based fertilizer if a soil test turns up a deficiency.

**Choose slow-release.** The Grant-Valkaria ordinance requires lawn or landscape fertilizers with nitrogen to be at least 50% slow-release (also called timed-release or slowly available) from October 1 to May 31.



## Seminars

on fertilizing and turf maintenance

Watch [www.grantvalkaria.org](http://www.grantvalkaria.org)

For dates of informative sessions with experts.

Sign up for emails at [www.grantvalkaria.org](http://www.grantvalkaria.org)



Enjoy Florida. It's where you live now.

[BeFloridian.org](http://BeFloridian.org)



# — SEVEN WAYS —

## TO STEP IT UP AND KEEP OUR WATERS FUN

### READY TO GO ALL OUT?

After all, our very way of life – boating, fishing, relaxing by the water while sipping drinks – is at stake.

- 1 Test your turf.** If the problem is a pH imbalance, pest invasion, or disease, fertilizer won't help. Call the Brevard County Extension Service for help at (321) 633-1702.
- 2 Perfect 10 (and 25).** Keep fertilizer at least 10 feet away from any body of water and 25 feet away from the Indian River Lagoon.
- 3 Sweep it up.** Whisk fertilizer granules off sidewalks, streets, and driveways. Otherwise it's algae food.
- 4 On your guard.** Use a spreader with a deflector shield or edge guard so you spread fertilizer only where you need it.
- 5 Keep the clippings.** Leave grass clippings right on your lawn. clippings can supply up to 50% of the nitrogen your grass needs.
- 6 Mow high.** Mowing too short stresses the turf and makes it vulnerable to disease, pests, and drought. Typical St. Augustine grass should be mowed at 3.5 to 4 inches.
- 7 Be Floridian.** What works in other states doesn't work here in the semi-tropics. Learn how to design your yard for where you live now at [www.BeFloridian.org](http://www.BeFloridian.org).



Read Grant-Valkaria's  
Fertilizer Ordinance at  
[www.grantvalkaria.org](http://www.grantvalkaria.org)



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