



Hernando County

FERTILIZER

MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE



Questions or Comments? Reach out at fertilizer@hernandocounty.us

Goal of this Ordinance: Prevent nutrient pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizer from entering natural water bodies.

Where the ordinance applies: All landscape areas, including plants, trees and turfgrass.

Who the ordinance applies to: All fertilizer applicators within unincorporated Hernando County.

Compliance Calendar Dates:

December 1 through March 31 and June 1 through September 30

- Fertilizer with nitrogen and phosphorus are prohibited from application.

April 1 through May 31 and October 1 through November 30

- If using nitrogen fertilizer, at least 50% N must be slow release.
- Apply zero phosphorus unless a soil test shows a deficiency.

All Year

- Do not apply fertilizer containing nitrogen before seeding or sodding a site, and for the first 30 days after seeding or sodding.
- Broadcast spreaders must be equipped with deflector shield.
- Keep spilled fertilizer, grass clippings, and lawn debris off pavement and away from storm drain inlets. Collect and manage for proper disposal or reapply landscape.

Application Setbacks:

- Broaden the exclusion zone to protect water bodies.

Training and Licensing Requirements

- Show proof that GI-BMP course was completed.
- Commercial applicators are required to possess a valid FDACS Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate.

