

## About the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance

Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance, Article XIII, Chapter 58, is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitats of creeks, lakes and marine waters that receive discharge from our stormdrain system.

The ordinance became law in January 2010 and regulates landscape maintenance practices and the sale and use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus (phosphate) within Pinellas County. This means that homeowners, landscapers and lawn care services must adhere to specific practices as outlined in the ordinance.



Fertilizer containing nitrogen (N) or phosphorous (P) cannot be used on lawns or landscape plants between June 1 and September 30, because during these months Pinellas County receives frequent, heavy rainfall which washes nutrients from fertilizer into surface waters.

Violators of the fertilizer ordinance may be fined up to \$10,000 per day.

Visit these links for more information about the specifics of the ordinance, the proper application of fertilizer, and best management practices for lawn and landscape care:

- ✓ [Best Management Practices for Landscape Companies](#) — Brochure
- ✓ [FAQs for Homeowners](#)
- ✓ [FAQs for Landscape Professionals](#)
- ✓ [Fertilizer Facts](#) — Brochure from the Southwest Florida Water Management District
- ✓ [Fertilizer Ordinance Retail Notice](#)
- ✓ [Full text of the Fertilizer Ordinance](#)
- ✓ [Guía a la Ordenanza del Fertilizante](#) — Folleto
- ✓ [Guide to the Fertilizer Ordinance](#) — Brochure
- ✓ [Landscape Practices that Improve Water Quality](#)
- ✓ [New 2010 Fertilizer Ordinance](#)—Video

The ordinance requires all commercial and institutional applicators of fertilizer to obtain certification, and to keep their certificate with them during application activities. Pinellas County Watershed Management offers certification courses in Best Management Classes for green industry workers at nominal cost. To view a schedule of upcoming courses and register online, visit this link:

<http://pinellascountywaterquality.eventbrite.com/>.

To learn more ways to help prevent stormwater runoff, please visit the Pinellas County Water Atlas [Stormwater Education page](#).