



## St. Lucie County Fertilizer Ordinance No. 2014-3

### Landscape Maintenance Professionals (lawn and landscape):

- January 1, 2014 **Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certification** Chapter 482.1562, Florida Statutes all commercial fertilizer applicators are required to have this license.
  - Prior to submitting for the Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Applicator License they must take a 6-hour Green Industry Best Management (GIBMP) class and pass the exam with a 75% or higher.
  - Upon passing exam a GIBMP certificate is issued.
  - Applicant must complete Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Applicator application form, attach passport size picture, a check for \$25.00 and GIBMP certification.
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) will be the license monitoring agency.
- The St. Lucie County Tax Collector will be asking for proof of GI-BMP certification when filing for a business tax receipt.
- This new ordinance is effective June 1, 2014.
  - Blackout period June 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014 which means no fertilization with Nitrogen or Phosphorus during this period.
  - October 1 – May 30 all fertilizer application products must contain at least 50% slow-release nitrogen and 0% phosphorus
  - Phosphorus products may be applied if a soil test indicates deficiency.
- St. Lucie County Code Enforcement will provide enforcement of the ordinance upon a complaint filed with the code office.
  - A brochure will be provided to educate landscape maintenance professionals who are first time offenders and code will reserve civil citations for the repeat offenders.

### Homeowner Landscape Practices (lawn and landscape):

- This new ordinance is effective June 1, 2014.
  - Blackout period June 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014 which means no fertilization with Nitrogen or Phosphorus during this period.
  - October 1 – May 30 all fertilizer application products must contain at least 50% slow-release nitrogen and 0% phosphorus.
  - Phosphorus products may be applied if a soil test indicates deficiency.
- St. Lucie County Code Enforcement will provide enforcement of the ordinance upon a complaint filed with the code office.
  - Upon the effective date, a public notice will be posted on the division's webpage as to the new regulation and enforcement thereof.
- A brochure will be provided to educate homeowners who are first time offenders and code will reserve civil citations for the repeat offenders.