



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

What You Should Know About Recent Changes to the Urban Turf Fertilizer Rule

On January 8, 2015 The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopted changes to the statewide Urban Turf Fertilizer Rule 5E-1.003 F.A.C. The changes were in response to the culmination of 8 years of turf research conducted by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences turf scientists. This research was funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

What are the notable changes to the Urban Turf Rule?

- Addition of the term “Actively Growing Turf”
Research demonstrated that timing of fertilizer applications is a key factor when examining nutrient losses to the environment. Fertilizer should only be applied when turf is actively growing.
- Increased nitrogen application rate to 2 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. in the spring and summer.
- Limits nitrogen applications to 1 pound total nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. during the fall or winter.
- If a total controlled release form of nitrogen is applied, not more than 35 percent of the nitrogen in the controlled release fertilizer can be released within the first 7 days after application.
- Modification to the nitrogen application recommendations in the “Annual Fertilization Guidelines”
- Recommendation to only apply to actively growing turf.

- No application of nitrogen in the winter months in North Florida.
- Limits nitrogen applications rates to 1 pound per application in the fall and winter months in central and south Florida.
- Reduced the maximum annual pounds of nitrogen for Zoysia grass.
- Included the following statements in the required precautionary language –
 - “Apply only to actively growing turf”
- “Check with your local Cooperative Extension Agency to obtain specific information on local turf best management practices”
 - “Check with your county or city government to determine if there are local regulations for fertilizer use”
- “Maximum” is no longer required for the coverage area statement on the front of the bag. Now coverage area will suffice e.g. (This bag covers 4000 sq. ft.)
- Existing stock clause, licensees are granted 18 months to make the necessary label modifications.

The complete rule can be accessed at “link will be provided once published”.

If you have questions or need additional information contact:

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