



Follow Simple County Rules for Fertilizer and Irrigation

Help Control Nutrient Runoff. Keep Our Ponds Healthy.

By the Rivendell Ponds and Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word - June 2021]

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Say NO! to Fertilizer!
June 1 - Sept. 30



Summer is almost here and so is the rainy season. Stormwater runoff washes nitrogen and phosphorous from fertilizers into our ponds and bays and can cause damaging algal blooms which harm aquatic life (think of the beaches littered with dead fish from the red tide a few years back). **Be a part of the pollution solution!**

To help control fertilizer runoff into County waters (which includes our ponds), Sarasota County has an Ordinance (No. 2007-062) that bans certain chemicals during the summer. The County also issued guidelines for irrigation to reduce fertilizer runoff from lawns and save water. We remind all residents to follow these recommendations to minimize algae in our ponds, improve the health of our waters, attract wildlife, and keep property values strong.

Say No! to Nitrogen & Phosphorus

- Per Sarasota County rules, do not apply fertilizer containing **nitrogen or phosphorous** to turf or landscape plants between **June 1 to Sept. 30**.
- Fertilizer should not be applied within 10 feet of a pond, wetland, preserve nor any impervious surface.
- As the County also recommends, Rivendell is installing Low Maintenance Zones (LMZs) and aquatic plantings along pond shorelines to help absorb excess nutrients from runoff and control erosion.

County Irrigation Guidelines – Only If Needed - On Your Day

Please only irrigate on your allowed day and before 10:00a or after 4:00p - Tuesdays for even-numbered addresses and Thursdays for odd. Inspect rain sensors & sprinkler heads regularly - check that they are not spraying water onto streets and non-landscaped areas.

Have a Well? Water Restrictions Apply to Well Users too

Please remember that Well users are not exempt from these watering restrictions. Well users can only water once per week on your assigned day and not between 10a – 4p. All residents of unincorporated Sarasota County shall follow landscape and irrigation water restrictions. The restrictions apply to sources of water including **well**, pond, or utility system used for manual and automated irrigation systems. Click here for more details about [Sarasota County Water Restrictions](#).

Make A Difference - Here Are Some Great Tips

- Green up with Iron. Iron products with micro-nutrients keeps lawns green during summer. Skip the phosphorus - Sarasota County's soil is naturally rich in phosphorous.
- Add compost to improve your soil and give your garden a powerful boost.
- Use Florida-friendly plants. There's an abundant variety of Florida plants available – they are adapted to our climate and soil, so they need less fertilizer, water, pesticides, and overall care.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn. Mow high for health. (Mowing short stresses grass and makes it more vulnerable to disease, pests and drought.)
- Irrigate only if needed. Watch the weather. Tropical storms pop up quickly and don't help fertilizers soak in - they just wash fertilizers away and into the ponds and waterways.

Your Actions Make a Difference. Please follow these guidelines. Let's work together to reduce stormwater pollution entering our local waterways and bays. The best way to keep our ponds clean and healthy is to minimize the pollutants we use in our yards and irrigate only if needed. Not only can we lower our watering and fertilizer costs, we beautify our landscape, and keep our property values strong. It's a win for you, your property, our community, and

What starts here,



can end up here.



It's all connected.

our waterways.

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