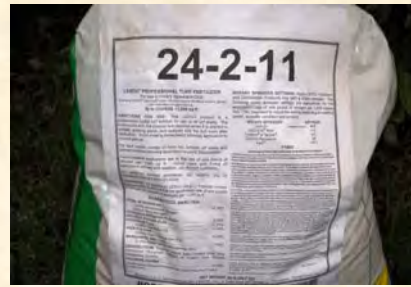


## Fertilizer Guidelines:



The City of Stuart has adopted regulations for the application of fertilizer within the city. The reason for the regulations are that scientific evidence show overuse of fertilizers can cause nitrogen and phosphorus migration into the City's stormwater drainage conveyances during rain events which then empty into the St. Lucie River. When this happens, Nitrogen and Phosphorus (known as nutrients) become a food source for the production of algae blooms, aquatic weeds, and invasive plants.

While many plants and grasses can thrive without fertilizer, there are times when you will want to fertilize your landscape. It is important to know when and how often to fertilize, as well as what type of fertilizer to use.

You can have a healthy lawn by following these Florida-Friendly fertilizing tips:



Fertilize only if needed and only when grass is actively growing. Fertilizer application is recommended twice per year, once in spring and again in the fall. It should be applied at a rate of no more than one pound of total Nitrogen per thousand square feet and no more than one-half pound per thousand square feet if using a liquid Nitrogen product.



Don't fertilize before a heavy rain. Lawns need only 1/4 inch of water after each fertilizer application.



Always follow package directions and ensure that your spreader or liquid sprayer is set to the correct setting to avoid over-fertilizing.

Fertilizing appropriately is one of the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles—a set of guidelines that help protect natural resources while promoting healthy lawns and landscapes.

Please visit the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods website to learn more about Florida-Friendly Landscaping: [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/nine\\_principles.htm](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/nine_principles.htm)



Are you fertilizing the St. Lucie River?

