

This summer,

*Give your
lawn a
vacation.*



*Help protect Tampa Bay
and other local waters.
Don't fertilize your lawn from
June through September!*



Applying fertilizers

containing nitrogen or phosphorous to your lawn or landscape plants during the summer increases the chance that rainfall will wash fertilizer pellets into nearby water bodies. Too much fertilizer feeds the growth of algae that turns the water an ugly pea-green and depletes oxygen that fish and other aquatic animals need to survive.

The City of St. Petersburg recently adopted two ordinances addressing residential fertilizer use. Ordinance 920-G urges residents NOT to use fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous on their lawns and landscape beds from June 1 to September 30. Ordinance 921-G prohibits the retail sale of nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizers during the summer period after May 1, 2011.



Compliance with

the recommendations is easy. Consider fertilizing your lawn in the Spring with a slow-release fertilizer that should keep your lawn healthy throughout the summer. Then, if necessary, fertilize again with a slow-release product in the Fall.

Following these recommendations can help protect Tampa Bay, Boca Ciega Bay, Lake Maggiore, and other local waters.

Not fertilizing during the summer may also save you time and money on lawn-watering and mowing—giving you AND your lawn a vacation!

Consider the Alternatives

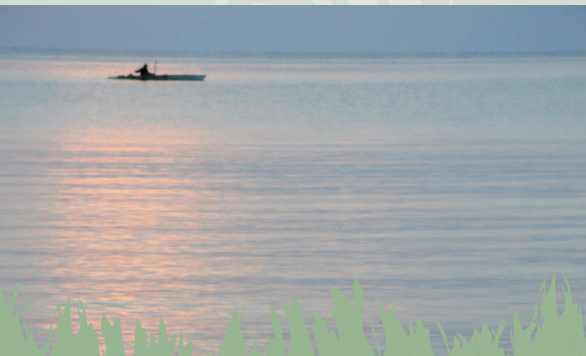
If you feel your lawn needs a little “greening up” during the summer, ask your local nursery about “summer safe” products that contain iron, magnesium or trace minerals instead of nitrogen and phosphorous.

Or, change your definition of a beautiful yard, from one focused primarily on lush green grass to one that features smaller grassed areas and landscape beds with colorful flowers, shrubs and ground covers that attract butterflies, bees and birds.

For more information about “Florida-Friendly” landscaping, visit www.floridayards.org or contact the Pinellas County Extension Office at 582-2100.

Special Notice for Reclaimed Water Users

If you irrigate your lawn with reclaimed water provided by the city, you may not need to fertilize your lawn as often, or at all, because reclaimed water already contains nitrogen. For more information on maintaining a healthy lawn and landscape while using reclaimed water, contact the St. Petersburg Water Resources Department at 893-7261 and request a copy of St. Petersburg’s *Landscape Plant Guide for Yards with Reclaimed Water*. Check with Pinellas County Extension for fertilizer guidelines based on how often you irrigate.



Thanks for doing your part to protect our water quality!



The fertilizer use measures adopted by the city also...

- discourage application of fertilizer within 10 feet of a water body, including Tampa Bay, lakes, ponds, canals or wetlands
- require licensing and certification of lawn care professionals who apply fertilizer to residential or commercial properties
- recommend that all grass clippings, yard debris and fertilizer residues be swept off paved surfaces like driveways and roads so they aren't washed into storm drains and carried to waterways with rainfall
- urge homeowners to create a 6-foot-wide "no mow" zone of low-maintenance plants between their lawns and the shoreline to absorb pollutants and provide wildlife habitat





Did you know...

Tampa Bay is one of only 28 Estuaries of National Significance designated by Congress.



Tampa Bay Estuary Program
100 8th Avenue S.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Tel: 727.893.2765
Fax: 727.893.2767
E-mail: saveit@tbep.org
www.TBEP.org



st.petersburg

www.stpete.org/protectourbays

