



Be Floridian This Summer
Skip The Nitrogen on Your Lawn: Pump Some Iron Instead

The partners of the **Be Floridian** fertilizer education campaign remind Pinellas County residents that they can't apply nitrogen or phosphorous to lawn and landscape plants **from June through September**. But that doesn't mean your grass will turn brown, shrivel up and die!

Garden centers in Pinellas County offer a variety of "summer-safe" yard products, most made by Florida companies, that will help you keep your landscape green and growing throughout our long, hot summer. These products comply fully with Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance – ensuring that our efforts to maintain an attractive landscape don't pollute our ponds, lakes, bays and the Gulf of Mexico.

True Floridians know better than to fertilize in the summer, when our frequent rains can wash fertilizer residues down storm drains and into our waters. Instead, they follow these Florida-friendly lawn care practices:

- * **Pump some iron.** An application of iron, readily available at most garden centers, will keep your lawn green during the summer.*
- * **Micro-size It!** Apply micronutrients such as potassium and magnesium to keep your grass healthy. Look for fertilizers with "0" as the first two numbers on the bag, such as 0-0-16.*
- * **Get Better Dirt.** Mix in composted cow or chicken manure, or your own home compost, to enrich your soil. It's like giving vitamins to your yard.*
- * **Pick better plants.** Buy plants adapted to Florida's hot, humid climate and plant them in the right place according to their sun and water needs. They'll need less water, fertilizer and chemicals year-round, and you'll have more time for bicycling, boating, grilling or just relaxing by the pool sipping a drink with a little umbrella in it.*

For more tips on how to Be Floridian, visit www.befloridian.org
For information on the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance,
visit <http://www.pinellascounty.org/environment/watershed/fertilizer.htm>

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