

## 5 Steps to a Florida Friendly Yard

### 1. Skip the fertilizer

If you have a lawn, fertilize only in the spring and fall. When you do fertilize, be sure to use at least 50% slow release nitrogen. **SKIP THE PHOSPHOROUS** – Florida's soil already has plenty.

### 2. Cut the grass

To kick the lawn habit, start small. Replace a corner of your lawn with a bed of shrubs, small trees or ground covers. Or plant that butterfly garden you always wanted.

### 3. Right plant right place

Florida-friendly plants need little care if you put them in the right spot. Sunny? Soggy? Shady? Florida-friendly plants just need the right home to flourish.

### 4. Save the water (bill)

Don't water until you can see footprints in your lawn and the leaves of your plants are curling. And make sure your sprinklers aren't watering the sidewalk.

### 5. Give pesticide a pass

Why dump toxins all over your little piece of paradise? Protect good guys like lady bugs, and give bad bugs the boot by hand-plucking or using non-toxic horticultural sprays.

## PROTECT OUR FUN.

Skip the fertilizer this summer. And save our lagoon for fun.



## Our Partners

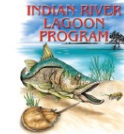
Be Floridian Now is co-branded as the east coast version of Tampa Bay Estuary Program's original and brilliant Be Floridian program. The Tampa Bay partners graciously allowed the east coast partners to customize the Be Floridian website for Florida's east coast.



"A City for All Ages"



PROJECT H2O



Marine Resources Council

3275 Dixie Hwy. NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905  
(321) 725-7775

# PROTECT FUN



SKIP THE FERTILIZER THIS SUMMER.



BEFLORIDIANNOW.ORG

## Who We Are

You could call us the Florida East Coast Society for Preserving Florida for boating, fishing, and drinks with little umbrellas. Be Floridian Now is calling on all Floridians to help protect what makes Florida so fun. The rules for yard work are a little different here in Florida. We have to be careful not to spoil the reason so many of us enjoy living here.

In Florida, summer rains don't water fertilizer in — they wash it off our lawns and into our rivers, lagoon, and ocean. The excess nitrogen and phosphorus in the water feeds algal blooms that use up oxygen, kill fish and turn the water the color of pea soup. As more and more people move to our area, the problem gets worse. So help us make sure everyone knows to skip the fertilizer this summer. Together, we Floridians can protect our fun by saving our rivers, lakes, and estuaries one yard at a time.

## Be Floridian Now

- 1 Skip the lawn fertilizer this summer.
- 2 Only apply fertilizer that has at least 50% slow-release nitrogen.
- 3 Do not apply phosphorus (P) to the lawn without a soil test.
- 4 If applying fertilizer, stay at least 10 feet from a water body.\*

*\*Local ordinances may have larger set-back requirements.*



## Online Resources

### Yard 911

<http://befloridiannow.org/yard-911/>

### Quick Start

<http://befloridiannow.org/quick-start/>

### Floridafying

<http://befloridiannow.org/floridafying/>

### Homeowner Tool Kit

<http://befloridiannow.org/homeowner-toolkit/>

### What's Legal in My City

<https://sites.google.com/site/fertilizeruseintheirwatershed/fertilizer-ordinances>

**And gain easy access to links we find super helpful and educational!**

<http://befloridiannow.org/links-we-love/>



Program coordinators:  
Marine Resources Council  
3275 Dixie Hwy. NE,  
Palm Bay, FL 32905  
(321) 725-7775

BEFLORIDIANNOW.ORG