



BMP

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LANDSCAPING AND LAWN SERVICES



The Alachua County Water Quality Code prohibits yard debris and other non-storm water discharges into roads or stormdrains.

The Storm Drain System

was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. In most

areas, anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks without any treatment.



NEVER direct grass clippings or other yard debris into the street or stormdrain. This can cause flooding, create hazards for bikes and motorcycles, and can end up in our creeks where it can contribute to algal blooms and fish kills.



ONLY THE RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

Report illegal dumping, grass clippings, changes in creek color, and digging in creeks.



Florida Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL)

Alachua County has a Homeowner's Association (HOA) FFL Code that may help homeowners make water friendly changes in their yards! Contact staff at 352-264-6800 to learn more.

Right Plant, Right Place

Select plants based on climate, soil, and light conditions to reduce your need for water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

Water Efficiently & Mulch

Irrigate only when your lawn and landscape visibly need water (folded leaf blades, footprints remain visible.) Mulching plant beds will retain moisture and inhibit weed growth.

Attract Wildlife

Plants in your yard are important for wildlife. Visit www.Audubon.org/plantsforbirds to learn more.

Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Limit your use of chemicals. Use integrative pest management practices.

Recycle

Grass clippings and leaves recycled on site provide nutrients to the soil and reduce waste disposal.



City of **Gainesville**



USE THIS GUIDE TO PREVENT WATER POLLUTION FROM LANDSCAPING ACTIVITIES.

Irrigation

More than 50% of residential water use is used outside. Our water comes from the aquifer below us and is the same source that feeds our springs. One of the best ways to conserve water is to limit irrigation.

- All new irrigation or major modifications must go through an approval process per the Irrigation Efficiency Code. For more information, call 352-264-6800.
- Shut off your irrigation system and only run manually when plants show signs of stress (folded leaf blades, footprints remain visible).
- Lawns may turn brown in the winter; they need little to no water at this time of dormancy.
- Install and maintain rainfall shut off devices for automatic sprinkler systems (It's the Law!).
- Soil moisture sensors or smart controllers save more water and money and are required on new systems.
- Adjust sprinklers so you don't waste water on roads, sidewalks, or buildings.

My Yard

Our Water

It's all connected

Fertilizer

Alachua County's Fertilizer Code (Chapter 77) was updated in 2019 to protect our springs, lakes, and rivers.

Prohibited Application Period

Fertilizers with nitrogen may not be applied to turf or landscape plants:

- During the banned months of July through February
- If heavy rains are expected
- When soils are saturated
- Prior to or for the first 30 days following seeding or sodding

Nitrogen

Fertilizer with nitrogen is only allowed March through June and must contain at least 50% slow-release nitrogen.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus is abundant in most of our soil thus it may only be applied if a soil or tissue test verifies a need. The three numbers on a fertilizer bag are nitrogen, then phosphorus and finally potassium. This means the middle number on the bag must be zero (Ex: 6-0-6).

Deflector Shields

A deflector shield is required on all broadcast spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied to impervious (non-porous) surfaces or within 10 feet of any water body or wetland.

Fertilizer-Free Zones

No fertilizer may be applied to impervious surfaces, and spills must be cleaned up immediately. Fertilizer may not be applied within 10 feet of any water body or wetland (additional restrictions may apply for conservation areas, sinkholes, and stormwater basins).

Low Maintenance Zone

Maintain a wide, low-maintenance buffer of native vegetation around all surface waters and wetlands to protect water quality and provide habitat.



Irrigation Restrictions

Water lawns before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. to prevent water loss through evaporation.

Location	Summer 2 nd Sun in March to 1 st Sat in November	Winter 1 st Sun in November to 2 nd Sat in March
Odd House #	Wed and/or Sat	Sat
Even House #	Thur and/or Sun	Sun
Non-residential/ commercial	Tue and/or Fri	Tue

What to look for in your lawn maintenance company

- Ask to see their Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) certification.
- Follows the County Fertilizer Code (i.e. Does not apply fertilizer with nitrogen during banned months).
- Promotes Florida Friendly Landscaping practices and is familiar with native plants.
- Blows or sweeps grass clippings from the roadway back into the yard to act as a natural fertilizer.
- Minimizes the use of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides in your yard.

MyYardOurWater.org

Report Violations to (352)-264-6800