

FACTS ABOUT WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTROL FERTILIZER APPLICATION IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(1) Excessive nitrogen in runoff from fertilizer used on urban lawns and landscapes has a detrimental effect on the coastal waters in Southwest Florida. This is particularly true in the rainy season

(2) The excess nitrogen encourages the growth of nuisance red drift algae, blue green algae and red tide, all of which have a harmful impact on our beaches, our wildlife, and our way of life.

(3) Poor water quality also impacts the tourist economy and the jobs it creates.

(4) Through TMDL (total maximum daily load) legislation, the state has mandated that local governments have the responsibility to keep their waters free from pollutants. Sanctions will be applied to those governments which fail to comply.

(5) Controlling nitrogen runoff in urban fertilizer is one strategy that is effective in keeping our waters clean.

(6) This has led many local governments to adopt fertilizer ordinances as a response to the state water quality mandate.

(7) We are not suggesting that fertilizer should not be used, we ask that it be used responsibly