

## Sanibel's Fertilizer Ordinance

- Fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous **may not be applied** during the rainy season from **July 1-Sept. 30**.
- Fertilizers **MAY NOT** be applied within 25ft of any body of water, wetland, drainage or retention area.
- Fertilizers may **NOT** be applied to any impervious surfaces; spills must be swept up immediately.
- A **deflector shield** is required on all broadcast (rotary) spreaders to prevent fertilizer from being applied to fertilizer free-zones.
- Nitrogen Application: Applied at **MAXIMUM** rate of 1lb/1000sqft. The **MAXIMUM** amount of Nitrogen that can be applied per year is 4lbs.
- ALL PROFESSIONAL FERTILIZER APLICATORS MUST** possess a City of Sanibel Fertilizer Contractor Competency card. This Certification is **REQUIRED** by **ALL** contractors applying fertilizers on Sanibel.

For help selecting the right fertilizers consult a local plant or fertilizer expert educated on this topic; or visit: <http://www.sanibel2omatters.com/fertilizer/>



Who to Contact: City of Sanibel, Natural Resources Department 239-472-3700

## Managing your Contractor is Important

Be sure contractors are licensed and knowledgeable about City ordinances. All professional fertilizer applicators must possess a City of Sanibel fertilizer contractor competency card and be on site whenever fertilizer is being applied. Leaves and debris should be recycled, not blown into a canal or washed down a storm drain. Homeowner awareness and supervision ensures quality performance!



## About This Project



Thank you for your interest in Protecting Our Waters. I'm Kenny DiBiase, a life-long resident of Sanibel Island, 17 year-old, Life Scout Troop 101, Boy Scouts of America, a Certified Leave No Trace Trainer, and a Canterbury School student. This conservation/education program is an Eagle Scout Leadership Project, the capstone of my Trail to Eagle, the highest achievement in scouting. This project puts into "community practice" the values/skills learned over many years within scouting. Eagle projects are entirely youth developed and executed. My lifelong love of the Sanibel waters, Pine Island Sound, and fishing, combined with my desire to help others and protect our fragile environment naturally led me to develop this project. Program elements include: street signs installed in strategic Sanibel locations, presentations to community groups, educational homeowner welcome packets, educational booths at community events, website and email communications. Please contact me with any questions, comments or ideas at [dibiasekenny7@gmail.com](mailto:dibiasekenny7@gmail.com).

Troop 101 BSA:

<https://sites.google.com/site/fortmyerstroop101/>

## Special Acknowledgements

- Sanibel City Council, especially Vice Mayor Mick Denham & Councilman Marty Harrity
- Sanibel Public Works & Natural Resources Departments
- Mike Huisman, Sabal Signs
- George Poveromo, host of *World of Saltwater Fishing*
- Blair Wiggins, host of *Addictive Fishing*
- Captains Robert & Richard DeLizza, *Rock Boat*
- B. Wickstrom & D. Conway, Florida Sportsman
- Capt. Pete Quasius, Director & Brett Fitzgerald, Communications Director, Snook Foundation

*Created By Kenny DiBiase,  
endorsed by the City of Sanibel*



## Protecting our Waters

### A Sanibel Homeowner's Guide To:

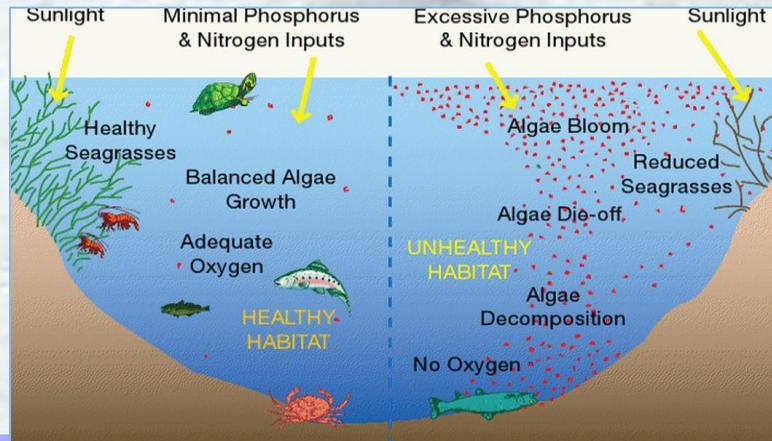
- Water Quality & Stormwater Runoff
- Sanibel's Fertilizer Ordinance
- Managing Contractors
- Waste Disposal
- Recreational Conservation



## Why Water Quality is Important

Water quality is important to improve and sustain the wonderful waters of Sanibel for future generations to enjoy. Keeping this ecosystem and fishery healthy is critical to protecting the quality of life of the Island's residents and wildlife, as well as our local economy. Nutrients and other pollutants in stormwater runoff can lead to algae blooms, resulting in hypoxia and other impacts to fish and wildlife. While our community works to re-establish oysters and sea grass beds, and lobby the issues related to the Caloosahatchee River, it is also vital to improve stewardship at home.

Every action we take in our homes and yards affects our water and wildlife resources. Storm drains exist along most Sanibel neighborhood streets. Many of these drains empty into roadway swales, canals, and wetlands and end up in our estuaries, bay and gulf waters. This is the water we drink and enjoy recreationally. As individuals, and collectively, we CAN protect Sanibel's fragile estuaries and wildlife, and continue to enjoy our sanctuary island!



Fertilizer runoff adds excess nitrogen and phosphorus to the water, stimulating algae growth. Algae blooms may reduce oxygen levels and block needed sunlight from reaching seagrass communities. Resulting losses in habitat and fish populations can be catastrophic. We can all be a part of the solution to stop this devastating cycle.

## Threats to Water Quality

Stormwater runoff is one of the greatest threats to water quality in Florida. Stormwater runoff is rain that does not soak into the ground where it falls. This water runs off yards, streets, and parking lots into storm sewers or waterways and carries a variety of pollutants including:

- Septic system discharges
- Fertilizers
- Pet wastes
- Other pollution waste/ hazardous wastes
- Yard waste



Red drift algae along Sanibel beaches. October, 2006



Algae in the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. March, 2006

## Be Smart ★ Be Clean ★ Enjoy

Consider these easy ways

YOU can help to protect our local waters:

### ✓ Dispose of Waste Properly

Improper disposal of oil-based paints, mineral spirits, pool chemicals, pesticides, or other home chemicals can pollute our sensitive Sanibel environment. Did you know that used automobile batteries and fluids can be returned to an auto parts shop? For more information about hazardous waste disposal visit:

<http://www.mysanibel.com/Departments/Public-Works-Including-Utility-and-Parks-Maintenance/Solid-Waste-Information>

### ✓ Protect Your Storm Drain

Water in storm drains does not go to the water treatment plant! Pollutants entering storm drains end up in our canals and coastal waters. Maintain a "fertilizer-free" zone around all storm drains and be sure that pet waste and yard clippings near storm drains are picked up and disposed of properly.

### ✓ Plant Natives

Native plants have adapted to our seasonal rainfall and soils. Planting natives reduces the need for fertilizers and irrigation. Consider replacing grass lawns with native landscaping. Be sure to leave the topsoil – it takes years for good topsoil to develop.

### ✓ Embrace Recreational Conservation

- Practice "catch and release". If you must, only take fish you will eat.
- Carry a bucket/bag to dispose of trash, tag ends, excess fishing line, and soft plastics.
- Use circle hooks, mash down hook barbs, and dispose of fish remains in tubes at fishing piers (where available).
- Practice the principle of "leave no trace" to reduce human impact and leave a place better than you found it.
- Support local conservation organizations like SCCF, CCA, Snook Foundation, Sport Fish Restoration, Florida Sportsman, and Leave No Trace.