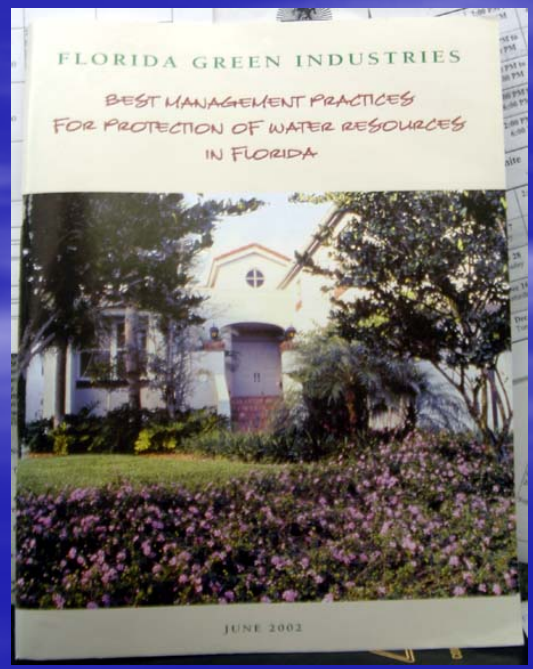
# Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Resources in Florida

Help Keep the St. Johns River Healthy


# What Are BMPs

- Standards
- Research Based
- Flexible to Level of Maintenance Desired
- Voluntary



# Why Use BMPs?

- **Reduce Non-point Source Pollution**
- **Save Money**
- **Support a Healthy Environment**

**How**

By using the correct amount of fertilizer and water in the correct manner to benefit the landscape without a negative impact on the environment

# BMP Objectives

- **Reduce off-site transport of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides through surface water or ground water**

# BMP Objectives

- Use appropriate site design and plant selection
- Use appropriate rates and methods of applying fertilizer and irrigation

# BMP Objectives

- **Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to minimize pests and apply chemicals only when appropriate**

# What Legal Impact Do the BMPs Have?

- BMPs are not required by law, but they are endorsed by DACS and DEP
- Target audience is not the property owner, but the service providers
- BMPs for property owners follow same guidelines

# BMP Goal

- Provide a state-wide uniform educational program about BMPs and environmental sensitivities
- Provide guidance for local governments on landscape management issues
- Increase public awareness of environmental impacts of landscape management

# Fertilizer Best Management Practices

- Fertilizer storage
- Soil testing
- How to properly apply fertilizer
- Fertilizer source (quick-release vs. slow-release)
- Application amount
- Application timing

# Fertilizer Storage

- Store fertilizer in areas protected from rainfall
- Load fertilizer away from wells or bodies of water
- Store nitrates away from flammable substances such as solvents, fuels, or pesticides
- Keep fertilizer and pesticides in a locked area

# Know Your Soil

- Soil testing should provide the basis for determining a fertility program
- This includes pH testing as well as extractable levels of macro and micronutrients

# Proper Fertilizer Application

- Do not to apply fertilizer to:
  - Sidewalks
  - Roadways
  - or other impervious surfaces where they might wind up in the storm drain

# Proper Fertilizer Application

**Leave a “Ring of Responsibility” around waterways**

# Proper Fertilizer Application

- Use a deflector shield when fertilizing near water
- 3 feet – without a shield
- 10 feet– with a shield

# Proper Fertilizer Application

- Water in fertilizer  with only enough water to move granules off of leaves (~1/4” water)

# Application Amount

- Depends on percentage slow-release N
  - No more than ½ lb. N 1000 $ft^2$ if quick-release
  - Up to 1 lb. N 1000 $ft^2$ if slow-release
- Better to apply smaller amounts more frequently for optimal physiological functioning of turf

# Application Timing

- Grass grows based on temperature and daylight hours
- Reduce N applications during summer growth (use iron to stay green without the growth)
- Varies depending on where in state, soil types, and turfgrass species

# Best Management Practices

- When followed can provide a green landscape without negatively impacting the river or the surrounding environment
- And are cost effective for both the property owner and the service provider

For more information on Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida contact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