

FERTILIZER USE IN HERNANDO COUNTY



In a recent study conducted by the University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), Hernando County residents were asked about their fertilizer practices, in addition to their perceptions of the county's updated fertilizer ordinance.

FERTILIZER APPLICATION PRACTICES

Most respondents (73%) fertilize their lawns themselves, meaning they make fertilizer application decisions for their property. Remaining responses indicated other residents in their household (13%) and hired landscape services (11%) are responsible for fertilizer application for their lawns.



The most popular form of fertilizer was slow-release, granular fertilizer (43%). Respondents typically purchase three to four 40-pound bags per year, reflecting the amount of fertilizer they normally apply on an annual basis.

Respondents were asked to identify the months in the calendar year when they typically apply fertilizer to their lawns. April, May and October were identified as the most popular months.

TOP MONTHS FOR RESIDENTIAL FERTILIZER APPLICATION



SOIL TESTING

Most respondents (65%) do not test their soil, although soil testing is essential for understanding the soil composition and determining the appropriate amount and formulation of fertilizer needed. Soil testing is available for residents through the UF/IFAS Extension - Hernando County office.



**65% OF RESIDENTS
IN HERNANDO COUNTY HAVE
NOT TESTED THEIR SOIL
IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.**

FERTILIZER KNOWLEDGE

Respondents had their knowledge on residential fertilizer use evaluated through several assessment questions.

Most respondents understood the meaning of NPK on a fertilizer label. Respondents were less knowledgeable related to questions involving fertilizer application procedures and irrigation practices.



**Most respondents
answered questions related
to the timing of fertilizer
application incorrectly.**



Data were collected between December 20, 2023, and February 29, 2024, by UF/IFAS Extension - Hernando County. This survey was conducted within Hernando County, Florida, and had 383 valid completed surveys used during analysis. Participants were required to be a Hernando County resident and over the age of 18.