

WHAT DO HERNANDO COUNTY RESIDENTS KNOW ABOUT FERTILIZER ORDINANCES?

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.

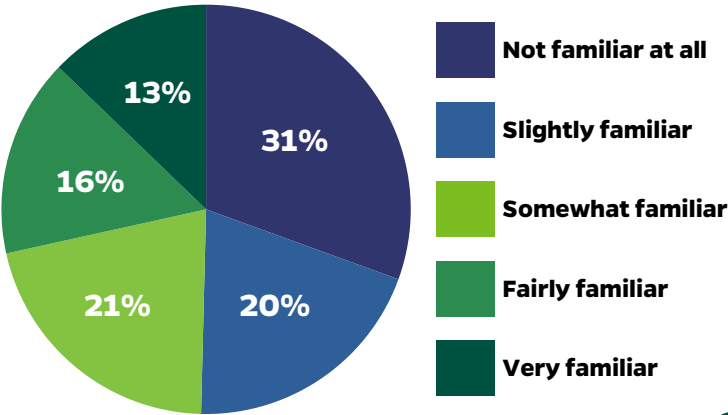
URBAN TURF FERTILIZER ORDINANCES IN FLORIDA

Urban turf fertilizer ordinances are local regulations designed to manage and control the use of fertilizers in residential areas to protect the environment and public health. More than 100 Florida counties and municipalities have ordinances regulating the types of fertilizer used and application timeframes.

ORDINANCE FAMILIARITY

Survey respondents were asked to report their familiarity with the Hernando County fertilizer ordinance. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale, with response options as “Not familiar at all”, “Slightly familiar”, “Somewhat familiar”, “Fairly familiar” and “ Very familiar”. Approximately 29% of respondents reported they were familiar with Hernando County’s fertilizer ordinances. Over half (51%) reported that they were either not familiar at all or were only slightly familiar with the ordinance.

FAMILIARITY WITH URBAN TURF FERTILIZER ORDINANCES



PROHIBITED TIMEFRAMES

Urban turf fertilizer containing nitrogen can not be applied during the following timeframes:

- DECEMBER 15 - MARCH 15
- JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 30

Respondents were then asked to identify the timeframes in which urban turf fertilizers containing nitrogen are prohibited in Hernando County. Between 28% and 30% of respondents selected the correct answers from multiple choices. In Hernando County, the application of urban turf fertilizers containing nitrogen is prohibited from Dec. 15 through March 15 and June 1 through Sept. 30

Less than one-third of respondents correctly identified prohibited timeframes for fertilizer application.



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.