

### **Brevard County Ordinance Compliant Organic Fertilizers**

Organic fertilizers for this bulletin are defined as having organic sources of nitrogen (i.e. feather meal, seed meal, manure, etc.) that are broken down by soil microbes in a process called mineralization. This process slowly releases nitrogen in a plant available form. These fertilizers also serve as an soil amendment. On the next page is provided a list of some of the organic fertilizers available at local garden centers. This list is by no means conclusive, since inventory can change, and not all garden centers have been contacted. Some organic fertilizers that are available at local garden centers were excluded because they have too much phosphorus and not enough nitrogen to make them worthwhile. The optimum ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus is a 4 to 1 ratio (4:1) such as 16-4-8. Some of the fertilizers listed have a 3:1 ratio, so their application rates have been adjusted to avoid excess phosphorus.

The specifics of the Fertilizer Ordinances that have been adopted throughout all of Brevard County, and each municipality, are as follows:

- No nitrogen or phosphorus may be applied to lawns and landscapes (this includes trees, shrubs, flowers, perennials, palms, etc.) from June 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Any fertilizer supplying nitrogen must be at least 50% slow release. Note that organic fertilizers have 100% slow release nitrogen.
- When applying nitrogen, a maximum of 1 lb. of nitrogen should be applied per 1,000 square feet.
- Phosphorus may only be applied if a soil test from the University of Florida soil lab shows it is needed. The soil testing form can be obtained at this website <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/SS/SS18700.pdf> . Request Test B so the amount of phosphorus will be measured.
- When phosphorus is applied, only ¼ (.25) pounds may be applied, per 1,000 square feet, per application.
- A maximum of only ½ (.5) pounds per 1,000 square feet of phosphorus may be applied per year.

For more information on the ordinances throughout the county follow this link:

<http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu/ordinances.shtml>

<b><u>Product Name</u></b>	<b><u>Fertilizer Analysis</u></b>	<b><u>Vendor</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
Dr. Earth Super Natural Lawn Food <i>18 lb. bag will treat 1,800 square feet</i>	9-3-5	Home Depot	Apply at a rate of 10 lbs./1,000 square feet to keep phosphorus (P) level under .25 lbs./1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> limit
GreenEdge Organic Lawn & Garden <i>40 lb. bag will treat 2,800 square feet</i>	6-2-0	Home Depot Ace Hardware – Cocoa Beach	Apply at a lesser rate, 14 lbs./1,000 square feet to keep P under limit of .25 lbs./1,000 ft <sup>2</sup>
Purely Organic Lawn Food <i>25 lb. bag treats 2,500 square feet</i>	10-0-2	Home Depot	Apply at a rate of 10 lbs./1,000 square feet Good for lawns that need nitrogen alone.
Scott's Natural Lawn Food <i>28 lb. bag treats 3,000 square feet</i>	11-2-2	Home Depot True Value	Apply at a rate of 9 lbs./1,000 square feet
Jobe's Organics Natural Lawn Food <i>15 lb. bag treats 1,000 square feet</i>	7-0-3	Home Depot Lowe's – only in stock at Indian Harbor Beach	Apply at a rate of 14 lbs./1,000 square feet Has numerous soil microbes too
Espoma Natural Lawn Food <i>28 lb. bag treats 2,500 square feet</i>	9-0-0	Lowe's Rockledge Gardens & possibly Sun Harbor Nursery also	Apply at a rate of 11 lbs./1,000 square feet
Richlawn Natural Lawn Food <i>25 lb. bag treats 2,500 square feet</i>	10-2-5	Lowe's	Apply at a rate of 10 lbs./1,000 square feet Also contains iron
Safer's Ringer Lawn Restore II <i>25 lb. bag treats 2,500 square feet</i>	10-0-6	Walmart	Apply at a rate of 10 lbs./1,000 square feet Good for yards that don't need phosphorus, but do need potassium

Some of the fertilizers carried by Home Depot and Lowe's may need to be ordered online and picked up at the store.