

Our Local Estuary Needs Your Help



Our Partners



Sebastian Inlet
Chapter



In Partnership With The Indian River
Lagoon National Estuary Program
& The City of Satellite Beach
Sustainability Board

What's At Stake:

The Indian River Lagoon is one of the most biologically diverse estuaries in North America, providing a home for more than 4,000 species and contributing \$3.7 billion per year to local economies.

The Problem:

Nutrient pollution from sources like lawn fertilizer and runoff from residential areas fuels unnaturally large algal blooms in the lagoon that can smother critical seagrass beds and remove dissolved oxygen from the water, resulting in fish and wildlife die-offs.

The Responsibility:

An ecosystem collapse in the lagoon impacts both people and wildlife within our community. It is up to all of us to be part of the solution to restoring the lagoon's health.

Solutions Start Right In Our Backyards



Homeowner Certification



There are three levels of Lagoon Friendly Lawns certification for homeowners, which feature the following criteria:

MEMBER LEVEL CRITERIA: (must meet all below)

- Fertilizer free: June-September
- Only use 50% or more slow release nitrogen fertilizer
- No phosphorous without soil test showing need
- Fertilizer-free buffers along water and curbs
- Regularly pick up pet waste
- Keep lawn clippings out of storm drains and water
- Don't wash cars in driveways
- Minimal pesticide application (spot treat only)

SILVER AWARD CRITERIA: (must meet three criteria + all member requirements)

- 30% or more non-turf, permeable yard
- Maintenance-free buffer along water + curbs
- Use of sustainable mulch
- Drain spouts pointed at permeable surfaces
- Rain barrels used for water capture
- Efficient/ minimal or no irrigation

GOLD AWARD CRITERIA: (must meet three criteria + member and silver requirements)

- No Category 1 exotic invasive plants
- 50% or more native plants
- 10 or more native plant species
- Flowering or fruiting plants for wildlife
- Living shorelines

Apply online under the “Certify Your Yard” section at:
KeepBrevardBeautiful.org/our-programs/lagoon-friendly-lawns

Contractor Certification



Contractor applications are reviewed and approved by review board committees, which also handle any violation reports submitted through the Lagoon Friendly Lawns website. Criteria for certification are as follows:

FERTILIZATION REQUIREMENTS:

- No fertilization June-September
- Soil should be tested for nitrogen, phosphorous and PH before fertilizer application for all new accounts, and once per year for established accounts, with results provided to Lagoon Friendly Lawns coordinator
- No phosphorous without soil test indicating need
- Apply only 50% or more slow release nitrogen, and plan to switch to 100% slow release (organic) in two years
- Fertilizer-free buffers along water bodies and curbs
- Do not exceed 1lb/1000sq ft per application and two applications per year
- Employ a certified fertilizer applicator

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Keep fertilizer + grass clippings off impervious surfaces and out of water bodies/storm drains
- Track and submit quarterly reporting
- Pesticide application spot treat only with license

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Encourage customers to seek advice of licensed irrigation contractor to ensure efficiency of system
- Attend a required UF/IFAS orientation course
- Leave behind program material for customers

Apply online under the “Contractor’s Corner” section at:
KeepBrevardBeautiful.org/our-programs/lagoon-friendly-lawns

“Through the Lagoon Friendly Lawns program, we can all be part of a community-level solution by making positive behavior changes when it comes to the care and keeping of our lawns.”

Help prevent algal blooms and fish kills!

Follow these lawn management core concepts:

- Minimize Nutrient Pollution
- Reduce Turf Area
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Restore Ecosystem Benefits

Get Recognized For Your Efforts!

Homeowners who follow these practices can certify their yards to gain benefits like:

- Beautiful handmade lawn signs
- Photos of your lawn on program web + social media
- Top landscapes featured in Spacecoast Living Magazine!

The program also offers a county-wide certification system for **lawn-care contractors**, which offers:

- Exclusive advertising listings and marketing benefits
- Use of certified contractors qualifies homeowners for certification, thereby creating business demand