



St. Johns River Water Management District

Kirby B. Green III, Executive Director • David W. Fisk, Assistant Executive Director

4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429 • (386) 329-4500
On the Internet at www.sjrwmd.com.

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*Rec'd
2/1/2010*

David Botto
Chair, Fisheries Campaign
Marine Resources Council
3275 Dixie Highway NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905-2511

Dear Mr. Botto,

Re: Urban Turf Fertilizer Recommendations

The St. Johns River Water Management District has been on record in support of no phosphorus and increased use of controlled-release nitrogen in urban turf fertilizers since 2007. When I served on the State of Florida's Consumer Fertilizer Task Force, we recommended that legislation be enacted that would (a) prohibit the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizer except for new lawns or unless a soil or tissue test shows a need for phosphorus fertilization, and (b) limit the use of readily available nitrogen in lawn fertilizer to fifty percent of the total nitrogen content. As you are aware, such legislation has yet to be enacted.

We made these recommendations based on our understanding of the science involved, and in recognition of the fact that source control is the most cost effective solution to address the adverse ecologic and economic impacts of excessive nutrients on Florida's springs, rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters. To this day, science and economics continue to support source control as the preferred solution to such pollution problems. It has been reassuring to see that the fertilizer industry significantly increased the availability of phosphorus-free fertilizer for urban turf application in the past few years. Likewise, the willingness of local governments to move ahead with fertilizer ordinances establishing protective application practices and addressing nitrogen content in fertilizers represents significant progress in our collective efforts to restore Florida's surface and ground water resources.

I wish the Marine Resources Council success in your ongoing work with local governments on this issue.

Best personal regards,

Casey Fitzgerald
Assistant Director
Department of Water Resources

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