

Educating with Extension



By Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator, and in collaboration with Alicia Betancourt, Shelly Krueger, and Michelle Leonard-Mularz

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August HAPPENINGS



National Water Quality Month!

Every Monday

Key West Garden Club 
Ornamental and native shrubs & trees for sale! 1100 Atlantic Blvd.
9:30am-11:30AM

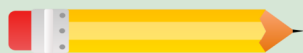
August 3rd

National Watermelon Day!



August 7th

School Sales Tax Holiday



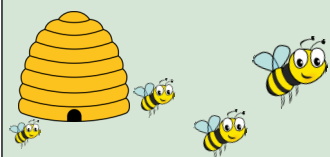
August 12th-15th

25th Annual Lobster Fest!
Key West



August 21st

National Honey Bee Day!



Monroe County Passes Fertilizer Ordinance

By Michelle Leonard-Mularz,
Environmental Horticulture Agent

Monroe County Board of County Commissioners recently passed a fertilizer ordinance with the intent of limiting nutrient applications to turf and landscape plants, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, since those nutrients have the potential to contribute to water pollution through surface water runoff. The ordinance titled, Monroe County Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes, is contained within Chapter 12, Article 2 of the Code of Ordinances, and spells out certain restrictions, requires the use of best management practices, and requires proper training by commercial applicators and landscape maintenance companies.

The new fertilizer rule would only affect unincorporated areas of Monroe County and would not apply to the City of Key West, Village of Islamorada, City of Marathon, City of Key Colony Beach, and City of Layton. However, the Village of Islamorada is currently reviewing their local fertilizer ordinance to adopt the language contained within the county ordinance. Additionally, it should be noted, section 12-27 states, “.....to the extent of any conflict within sections within this Article, the more restrictive is deemed to be controlling.”

Restrictions. No landscape or turf fertilizers are to be applied May 15th through October 31st. This coincides with our rainy season, where the potential for nutrients, from surface water runoff, being deposited into our waterways could be increased. Additionally, no fertilizers are to be applied during a flood watch, flood

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Plant Clinics

Monday, August 2nd

Plant Clinic

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Key West Garden Club
1100 Atlantic Blvd.
Key West

Tuesday, August 10th

Virtual Plant Clinic

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Two Common Pests: Geiger Beetle & Sri Lanka Weevil

Call to Register (305) 292-4501

Wednesday, August 18th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Garden Club of Upper Keys
9404 O/S Hwy.
Tavernier

Saturday, August 21st

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

KW Botanical Garden Nursery
5210 College Rd.
Stock Island

Saturday, August 21st

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Marathon Home Depot
4555 O/S Hwy,
Marathon

Wednesday, August 25th

Plant Clinic

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Island Home Nursery
88720 O/S Hwy,
Islamorada

Friday, August 27th

Florida Friendly Friday

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Call to Register
(305)292-4501

Extension Director's News

Alicia Betancourt

UF/IFAS Family and Community Development Agent and
Monroe County Extension Director

Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:

- Alicia taught the Fraud Protection Program both in person at the Big Pine Key Library and online. Participant were very surprised at the variety and volume of fraud techniques.
- Alicia co-taught the Lunch Bites program to 22 Extension professionals. This program uses community development concepts, participation and discussion to guide capacity building within Extension.
- Alicia developed a 15-page 5-part evaluation tool to examine short- and long-term changes in knowledge, behaviors and impacts of a new national Extension leadership training program.
- Alicia mentored two new community development faculty members. Helping them to develop needs assessments, programming and evaluation in their communities.
- Alicia is part of a national team of climate stakeholders including Extension Foundation, USDA Climate Hubs, NOAA and NIFA who have been organizing a plan to apply for support for the new NOAA Climate Smart Communities grant.
- Alicia spoke on the radio about the importance of having a digital hurricane kit, info can be found at www.blogs.ifas.ufl.edu.



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warning, tropical storm watch or warning, or hurricane watch or warning, regardless of the time of year.

“Fertilizer-free zones” are to be established and no fertilizer applications are allowed within twenty (20) feet of any waterway, including any surface water, shoreline, canal, or wetland; this includes any seawall, breakwater, bulkhead, dock, or rip-rap. There is an allowance to apply fertilizers in this zone to newly planted turf and landscape plants for a period of sixty (60) days which would begin after the initial thirty (30) days after planting, a period when plant roots are just starting to extend into the surrounding soil.

Liquid fertilizers containing nitrogen, those fertilizer materials suspended in a liquid, which includes those intended for foliar application, are prohibited. Fertilizers containing phosphorus are also prohibited, unless a soil test has determined the soil is deficient in phosphorus. Granular fertilizers containing nitrogen, applied to turf and landscape plants, are required to contain at least sixty-five (65) percent slow-release or water insoluble nitrogen per the guaranteed analysis on the label. No more than two (2) pounds of nitrogen per one-thousand (1,000) square feet is to be applied in any calendar year.

Fertilizer is not to be applied to any impervious surface, such as sidewalks, driveways, and streets.

In the event of a fertilizer spill, those materials should be immediately picked up or removed and applied to the landscape or put back into the appropriate container. It is prohibited to wash, sweep, or blow fertilizer into any surface water, stormwater drain, or fertilizer-free zone.

Exceptions. Golf courses and high impact areas in public parks and public athletic fields are exempt from this fertilizer ordinance since they are already governed by a set of specific Best Management Practices guidelines that are referenced in Florida Administrative Code 5E-1.003. Fertilization of fruit trees and shrubs are not to exceed University of Florida, IFAS maximum recommendations. Organic material that is intended to improve the physical condition of the soil are exempt such as yard waste compost, mulches, and other similar material. Lastly, tree trunk injections performed by a certified arborist are exempt from this ordinance.

This ordinance also expressly states that all commercial and institutional applicators shall obtain the Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Certification as directed in Chapter 482.1562 of the Florida Statutes. To obtain the limited certification, attend the Green Industry Best Management Practices training. These classes are offered by Monroe County Extension Service, UF/IFAS, and individuals need to get certified or renew their certification can contact Monroe County Extension Services for upcoming training dates.

Be sure to “Like” us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/monroecountyextension) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/monroecountyextension) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/monroecountyextension)!

New Fertilizer Ordinance for Monroe County

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Monroe County Board of County Commissioners recently passed a fertilizer ordinance with the intent of limiting nutrient applications to turf and landscape plants. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, have the potential to contribute to water pollution through surface water runoff and soil leaching. The ordinance titled, Monroe County Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes, is contained within Chapter 12, Article 2 of the Code of Ordinances. It spells out certain restrictions, requires the use of best management practices, and requires proper training and state certification by those applying fertilizer commercially or as a part of their business.

The new fertilizer rule would only affect unincorporated areas of Monroe County and would not apply to the City of Key West, Village of Islamorada, City of Marathon, City of Key Colony Beach, and City of Layton. However, the Village of Islamorada is currently reviewing their fertilizer ordinance to adopt the language contained within the county ordinance. Additionally, it should be noted, section 12-27 states, “.....to the extent of any conflict within sections within this Article, the more restrictive is deemed to be controlling.”

Restrictions

No landscape or turf fertilizers are to be applied May 15th through October 31st. This coincides with our rainy season, where the potential for nutrients being deposited into our waterways is increased.

Additionally, no fertilizers are to be applied during a flood watch, flood warning, tropical storm watch or warning, or hurricane watch or warning, regardless of the time of year.

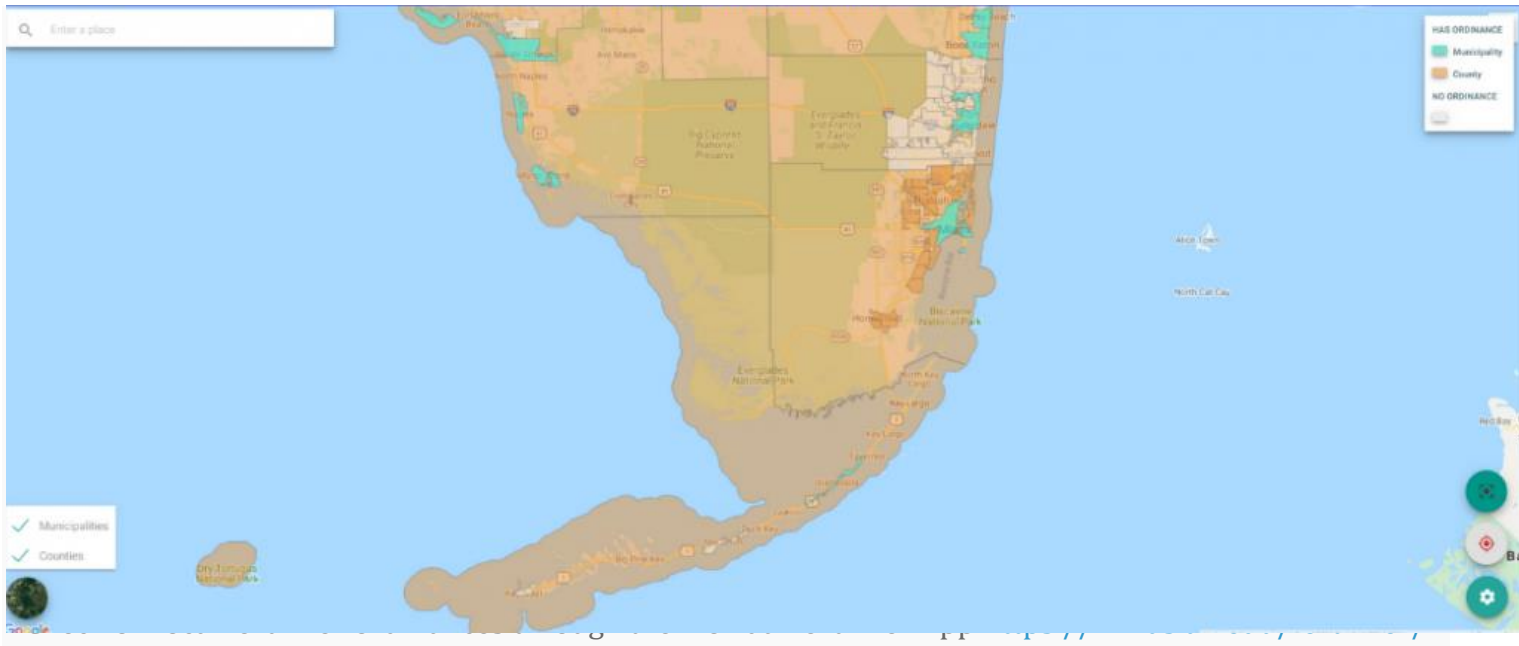
“Fertilizer-free zones” are to be established and no fertilizer applications are allowed within 20 feet of any waterway, including any surface water, shoreline, canal, or wetland; this includes any seawall, breakwater, bulkhead, dock, or rip-rap. There is an allowance to apply fertilizers in this zone to newly planted turf and landscape plants for a period of 60 days, which would begin after the initial 30 days after planting, a period when plant roots are just starting to extend into the surrounding soil.

Liquid fertilizers containing nitrogen, which includes those intended for foliar application, are prohibited. Fertilizers containing phosphorus are also prohibited, unless a soil test has determined the soil is deficient in phosphorus. Granular fertilizers containing nitrogen, applied to turf and landscape plants, are required to contain at least 65 percent slow-release or water insoluble nitrogen per the guaranteed analysis on the label. No more than 2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet is to be applied in any calendar year.

Fertilizer is not to be applied to any impervious surface, such as sidewalks, driveways, and streets. In the event of a fertilizer spill, those materials should be immediately picked up or removed and applied to the landscape or put back into the appropriate container. It is prohibited to wash, sweep, or blow fertilizer into any surface water, stormwater drain, or fertilizer-free zone.

Exceptions

Golf courses and high impact areas in public parks and public athletic fields are exempt from this fertilizer ordinance since they are already governed by a set of specific Best Management Practices guidelines that are referenced in Florida Administrative Code 5E-1.003. Fertilization of fruit trees and shrubs are not to exceed University of Florida, IFAS maximum recommendations. Organic material that is intended to improve the physical condition of the soil are exempt such as compost, mulches, and other similar material. Lastly, tree trunk injections performed by a certified arborist are exempt from this ordinance.



Training and certification. This ordinance also expressly states that all commercial and institutional applicators shall obtain the Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Certification as directed in Chapter 482.1562 of the Florida Statutes. To obtain the limited certification, green industry employees and/or managers are required to attend the Green Industries Best Management Practices training (GI-BMP). These classes are offered by Monroe County Extension Service and individuals needing to get certified, or renew their certification, can contact our office for our training schedule.

For a schedule of our upcoming classes visit our Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ufifas-extension-monroe-county-31022637923>

To access the Monroe County Fertilizer

Ordinance: https://library.municode.com/fl/monroe_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH12E_NNAREPR_ARTIUSAPFE

by [Michelle Leonard-Mularz](#) 

Posted: August 11, 2021