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### **Fertilizer restrictions in effect in Lee County June 1 – Sept. 30**

Fort Myers, FL, May 30, 2025 – Lee County Government reminds homeowners and professional landscapers to “Stop Fertilizing Gnome Matter What” beginning Sunday, June 1, until Tuesday, Sept. 30. Fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous may not be applied to turf or landscape plants in unincorporated Lee County within this period.

To raise awareness about the fertilizer ordinance, Lee County is continuing its successful 2024 campaign, featuring a gnome named Lee helping to spread the word on billboards, television ads, social media posts and more. The goal of the campaign is to remind homeowners and landscapers to follow the guidelines and commit to safe landscaping practices while the ordinance is in effect.

During the summer months when Southwest Florida sees the most rain, improper and unnecessary fertilization can result in runoff that sends nutrients into local waterways. These excess nutrients can feed harmful algal blooms, resulting in negative impacts on county waterbodies, the Caloosahatchee and the Gulf.

Preventing these blooms and protecting Southwest Florida’s water means adjusting lawncare routines. Homeowners should stop fertilizing and start trimming trees and preparing outdoor areas for hurricane season. Lee County encourages residents and professional landscapers to follow the summer ordinance and use the following practices year-round:

- Don’t fertilize if rain is forecasted.
- Keep a 10-foot barrier between fertilized landscape and bodies of water.
- Sweep up spills instead of washing spilled granules away with a hose.

For more information on how to fertilize smart, visit [FertilizeSmart.com](https://FertilizeSmart.com). To receive updates from Lee County Government, sign up for the newsletter here: [www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters](https://www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters). Follow Lee County Government on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc](https://www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc).

#### **About Fertilize Smart**

Fertilize Smart is a Lee County Government initiative to protect local waterways, the quality of life and the economy through community education on correct fertilization procedures and the harmful effects of improper and unnecessary fertilization. In 2008, the Lee Board of County Commissioners voted to enact Lee County Ordinance No. 0808, which restricts the use of fertilizers that contain nitrogen and phosphorus during the summer months, to help minimize unwanted nutrients from entering drainage systems and waterways. These efforts aim to prevent harmful algal blooms and pollution that damage ecosystems throughout Florida. For more information on how to fertilize smart, visit [FertilizeSmart.com](https://FertilizeSmart.com).

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