

FERTILIZING 123s

1 DO I NEED FERTILIZER?

Fertilizer should be applied only if plants show signs of nutrient deficiency, or if soil tests indicate low nutrient availability.

2 WHAT KIND?

Slow-release fertilizer supports healthy plant growth while also preventing water pollution. Sarasota County requires at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen in lawn/landscape fertilizer. Look for labels including the term 'Florida Turf Fertilizer'.

3 HOW MUCH?


Follow label instructions. Protect our waters by using no more than 4 pounds per year of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn/landscape. (Check rates on the back of this card.) Fertilizer use is restricted across Sarasota County during the June 1 through Sept. 30 rainy season*

**Learn more about specific restrictions and codes by visiting: scgov.net (keyword: fertilizer).*



Understanding the fertilizer label

Fertilizer labels list primary nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, in a three-number format (e.g., 16 • 4 • 8). The “guaranteed analysis” notes quick- versus slow-release nitrogen levels, if applicable, plus other nutrients/ingredients.



FERTILIZER

16 • 4 • 8

N P K

nitrogen phosphorous potassium

Guaranteed Analysis

- N – Total nitrogen*.... 16%
- 8% Urea nitrogen
- 8% other forms of N%
- P – Phosphate..... 4%
- K – Soluble potash..... 8%

*Total nitrogen combines quick- and slow-release formulations. 'Other forms' include slow-release e.g. polymer-coated urea.

NOTE: Sarasota County requires using fertilizers with at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen. To calculate:

$$(\text{slow-release nitrogen} / \text{total nitrogen}) \times 100$$

e.g., $(8\% / 16\%) \times 100 = 50\%$ slow-release nitrogen

Quick reference guide

Use the following table to identify how much slow-release fertilizer is needed to deliver 1 pound of nitrogen for 1,000 square feet of lawn.

Pounds of fertilizer (at the recommended slow-release rate)*							
Lawn (sq. ft.)	Percent total nitrogen in fertilizer						
	6	10	12	15	16	23	27
1,000	16.7	10	8.3	6.7	6.3	4.3	3.7
1,500	25	15	12.5	10	9.5	6.5	5.6
2,500	41.8	25	20.8	16.8	15.8	10.8	9.3
3,000	50.1	30	24.9	20.1	18.9	12.9	11.1

* Reduce rates by half when using quick-release nitrogen sources.

To calculate fertilizer application for other formulations or lawn sizes:

$$(\text{100\%} / \text{total nitrogen \%}) \times (\text{lawn square feet} / \text{1,000})$$

e.g. for 16•4•8 form, $(100\% / 16\%) \times (5,000 / 1,000) = 6.3$ lbs. fertilizer to deliver 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.

For more information, call 941-861-5000, email sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu , or visit sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu/fertilizer , <https://www.scgov.net/government/utilities-water/water-services/fertilizer-management> or scgov.net (keyword: fertilizer).