

Steve Davidson

From: "Board of Supervisors" <tom4cc@cfl.rr.com>
To: <sdavidson13@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 12:10 AM
Subject: Grand Haven CDD Landscape Best Management Practices

YOUR CDD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ON MAY 28, 2008

We are writing to enlist your support in reducing the growth of algae in our storm water detention ponds (aka lakes). By using the following Best Management Practices in your yard you can make a difference in algae growth even if you don't live directly on a pond. Remember most runoff from your yard ultimately finds its way to a pond through the storm water sewer system. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

GRAND HAVEN LANDSCAPE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Grand Haven CDD has adopted the most recently developed University of Florida Best Landscaping Management Practices (BMPs) for Florida yards and neighborhoods in order to protect the environmental and aesthetic qualities of our detention ponds (aka Lakes). Cumulative misuse of fertilizers around our ponds and within our community has been a major contributing cause of excessive algae blooms and subsequent foul odors emanating from the ponds.

These new Best Management Practices create a Florida-friendly landscape where the right plants are in the right place, watering is done efficiently, fertilizing is done appropriately, mulch is used, wildlife is attracted, yard pests are managed responsibly, yard waste is recycled, storm water runoff is significantly reduced, and the waterfront is protected from pollutants. Go to the University of Florida IFAS Florida Yards and Neighborhood program at <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/> for detailed information.

Our detention ponds are touched by every property within Grand Haven. Rainfall and irrigation wash fertilizer from every yard into the street and from there into the storm drains and into our ponds. Austin Outdoors, the CDD landscape contractor for the common grounds, will be abiding by these Best Landscape Management Practices. This action is, however, not enough to protect our ponds. We need and strongly urge every property owner to abide by the same practices in order to protect the environmental and aesthetic qualities of our detention ponds (aka Lakes). We are also working with Hampton Golf in an attempt to persuade the golf course to adopt the same practices.

The critical elements of these practices follow. Please adopt them for your yards and require your landscape contractors to abide by them.

FERTILIZER CONTENT AND APPLICATION RATES

Fertilizers contain nitrogen (N), which is food for new growth, and phosphorous (P) and potassium (K), which promote root growth. Phosphorous is typically found in high quantities in our soil and is a potent growth accelerator for algae blooms when it runs off into our ponds. One pound of phosphorous can create 500 pounds of algae! Residents are strongly recommended to test their landscape soil annually to determine the proper blend of N, P and K. Often no P is required and a fertilizer with a 15-0-15 ratio of N-P-K is ideal for GH properties. The UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory will perform these tests for \$7.00 per sample. Please call the Flagler County Cooperative Extension Office, 150 Sawgrass Road, Bunnell,

437-7464, for full details..

Nitrogen should be applied at an application rate not to exceed 2-4 lbs N/1000 square feet per year and not greater than 1 lb total N per 1000 square feet at any one application.

50% of the Nitrogen (N) should be in slow-release form.

Phosphorous (P2O5), if needed due to deficiency determined by soil analysis test results, should not exceed an application rate of 1/4 lbs P2O5/1000 square feet per application and not exceed 1/2 lbs P2O5/1000 square feet per year.

Pelletized, encapsulated, dry slow release type fertilizer only should be used. Liquid fertilizers of any type, either sprayed by commercial applicators or added to Rid-a-Rust Tanks (fertigation), should not be used at any time. Residents who personally apply fertilizer to their lawns should follow instructions and charts

developed for homeowners found at the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods website: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>. From the FY&N Homepage, select Homeowners, Publications and Training, Handbook. Follow the instructions and charts in Section 3, pgs. 49 -58.

TIMING OF APPLICATIONS

Fertilizer should be applied only when grass is actively growing, and at a maximum of four applications per year.

Fertilizer should not be applied when heavy rain is expected within a few hours.

Freshly fertilized lawns should be irrigated with ONLY ¼" of water to control runoff.

MODE OF APPLICATIONS

Spreader deflector shields are required when fertilizing via rotary spreaders. Deflectors must be positioned such that fertilizer granules are deflected away from all impervious surfaces, fertilizer free zones and water bodies, including wetlands.

FERTILIZER-FREE ZONES

Fertilizer should not be applied within ten (10) feet, or three feet if a deflector shield or drop spreader is used, of any pond, wetland, or top of bulkhead/seawall.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

Fertilizer should not be applied, spilled, or otherwise deposited on any impervious surface. Any fertilizer landing on an impervious surface should be picked up and removed to the greatest extent possible.

In no case should fertilizer be washed, swept, or blown off impervious surfaces into storm water drains or water bodies.

Fertilizer landing on an impervious surface in front of a storm drain should be blown or swept on either side of the drain and then removed.

MANAGEMENT OF GRASS CLIPPINGS AND VEGETATIVE MATERIALS

In no case should grass clippings, vegetative material, and/or vegetative debris either intentionally or accidentally, be washed, swept, or blown off into storm water drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies (ponds), wetlands, or sidewalks or roadways.

Grass clippings should be returned to the lawn and not be bagged.

The grass should be mowed at the highest lawnmower setting possible - St. Augustine grass and bahia grass - 3.5 to 4 inches.

LOW MAINTENANCE ZONES

A voluntary six (6) foot low maintenance zone is strongly recommended from any pond or top of any bulkhead/seawall. A low maintenance zone contains

no turf and is planted with grasses, plants etc that minimize the need for fertilization and watering and provides a buffer to catch fertilizer run off from adjacent lawn areas.

IRRIGATION

Water should be used wisely through proper irrigation. Abide by Palm Coast rules.

CDD ACTIONS BEING TAKEN TO HAVE THE ADOPTED GRAND HAVEN LANDSCAPE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES USED BY ALL HOMEOWNERS AND HAMPTON GOLF

Request the Master Association have their Private Lawn Maintenance Contractors adopt these practices

Request Hampton Golf adopt these practices

Send the above letter to the individual lawn maintenance contractors who entered Grand Haven over the past 60 days

Hand a one-page summary of these practices to every lawn maintenance contractor who enters our community as they check in with the Officer at our Main gate.



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Grand Haven CDD | 2 North Village Parkway | Palm Coast | FL | 32137

GRAND HAVEN REQUIREMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS

Fertilizer content & application rates

- Test soil to determine if any phosphorous is required
- Typically a fert with 15-0-15 ratio of N-P-K is ideal
- Nitrogen application rate not to exceed 2-4 lbs. / 1000 sq. ft. / year
- 50% of N must be slow release
- Phosphorous if needed, should not exceed ¼ lb. / 1000 sq. ft / application and ½ lb/ 1000 sq ft/yr
- Liquid fertilizers should not be used
- Fertilizer should only be applied 2 to 4 times / yr

Application Mode

- Deflector shields required on rotary spreaders
- Keep fertilizer off impervious surfaces

Fertilizer Free Zones

- Do not apply within 10ft, or 3ft if deflector shield is used, of any pond, wetland or top of pond bulkhead / seawall

Grass Clippings

- Keep out of ponds, storm water drains, wetlands and roads

The Grand Haven CDD and Master Associations, after consultation with, and in consideration of the recommendations of the University of Florida Soil and Water Science Department, the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Water and Environmental Program Coordinator for the City of Palm Coast, and in compliance with the SJRWMD, have approved the following allowable detention pond bank new planting scheme:

New Plantings for Detention Pond Banks

For lot owners/residents:

- *Spartina bakeri* - Sand Cordgrass
- *Spartina patens* - Saltmeadow Cordgrass
- *Muhlenbergia capillaries* – Muhly Grass
- *Tripsacum dactyloides* –Fakahatchee Grasses

These varieties are the only plants that are permitted on the pond banks.

Ground Cover for Detention Pond Banks

The only approved ground cover for detention pond banks is pine straw mulch. Pine straw mulch shall be placed short of the high water line so as not to float into the pond during a high water event. Ground cover in the form of plants is not permitted.

New installations of lawn turf (sod) and irrigation systems down to the water line are not to be permitted on the detention pond banks.

The only permitted variation to the above will be the Littoral Shelf Pond Project planting scheme installed by the GHCDD.