

NEW REALITIES IN FLORIDA LANDSCAPE PLANNING

SB 494 - Florida: General Bill

Chapter No. 2009-199, Approved by Governor 06/18/09

Water Conservation: Revises requirements for automatic landscape irrigation systems. Encourages county and municipal governments to adopt and enforce the Model Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes or an equivalent requirement as a mechanism for protecting local surface water and ground water quality. Requires the FDEP to establish and approve training and testing programs providing urban landscape best management practices.

SB 2080 – Florida: General Bill

Chapter No. 2009-243, Approved by Governor 09/16/09

Water Resouces: Requires WMDs to provide model Florida-Friendly landscaping ordinances to local governments. Authorizes administrative fines to be imposed for each occurrence of unlicensed water well contracting, etc.

US EPA to Set Legal Limits on Runoff Pollution.

A consent decree recently signed settles a lawsuit filed last year by the Sierra Club, Florida Wildlife Federation and others against the US EPA seeking to set numeric standards for runoff such as fertilizers and animal waste.

A 2008 report found that more than half of Florida's rivers and lakes had poor water quality – killing fish, closing swimming areas and even shutting down a southwest Florida drinking water plant. Rain sends runoff into rivers and lakes, nourishing algae blooms that poison the ecosystems.

The EPA has until mid-January 2010 to propose limits for phosphorus and nitrogen pollutants, which will make it easier for the state to prosecute polluters.

Florida Statutes 373,414b, Draft Rule Effective 2010

Statewide Storm Water Rule:

Post development loading of N and P remains less than or equal to nutrient loading from natural landscapes. 80-85% Reduction of Nutrient Loading. CuSO₄ banned. Other algaecides may be banned.