



# Preventing Algae Blooms: A Checklist for Homeowners

## #1 Good Landscape Management

- Plant [Florida Friendly Landscaping™](#) (FFL). Challenge yourself to get [recognized as FFL](#).
- Get a [soil test](#) before you apply fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer may not be needed.
- Use only [zero - phosphorus fertilizer in Collier County](#).
- Use at least 50% slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, it's required by [Collier County Ordinance No. 2019-18](#).
- Limit [fertilizer application in Spring](#). Wait until the grass is actively growing.
- Look closely at your fertilizer bag and match it to your lawn size. Don't apply more [nitrogen than allowed](#).
- Install the [right plant in the right place](#). Don't install needy plants near hard surfaces or stormdrains.
- [Mow your turfgrass](#) to the proper height by turf type so it can absorb nutrients.
- [Reduce the amount of turfgrass](#) in your yard. Native groundcovers require less water and fertilizer.
- [Blow grass clippings](#) back into the landscape.
- [Recycle fallen leaves](#), use as mulch or compost.
- Apply three inches of [woody mulch](#). Avoid shell and stone under plants.

## # 2 Good Irrigation Practices

- [Water efficiently](#). Don't over irrigate.
- Know when to water and understand the [Collier County Ordinance No. 2015-27](#).
- Regularly check your [sprinkler heads](#). Irrigation should fall on the landscape, not on the concrete.
- Inspect your [rain moisture sensor](#).
- Take control of your irrigation, [skip a week whenever possible](#).

### Guaranteed Analysis

8 - 0 - 12



Phosphorus



Rain sensors like this will turn off your irrigation when it's raining

### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT SFWMD 3-Day-A-Week Watering

No watering from 10am to 4pm

IF YOUR ADDRESS ENDS IN...	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1, 3, 5, 7, 9							
0, 2, 4, 6, 8							

Properties with no address number follow Even schedule

[sfwmd.gov](#)

Click this image to find your personal watering schedule



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## #3 Good General Practices

- Clean leaves and debris from downspouts and gutters.
- Use [rain gardens](#), [rain barrels](#), or landscape buffers. Keep rainwater in your landscape as long as possible.
- Encourage [low-maintenance](#) buffers around waterbodies to collect nutrients from runoff.
- Correct any [erosion](#) on your property. Dirt has nutrients too.
- Pick up all the [pet waste](#) from your yard.
- [Wash vehicles](#) on the lawn or at a car wash. Keep wash water out of stormdrains.
- [Report Pollution](#) and [irrigation overspray](#) by dialing 311 within Collier County.

## #4 Hiring Good Professionals

- Use this [model landscape contract](#) when hiring a landscape or lake contractor.
- Hire [Green Industry](#) certified landscape professionals.
- Tell every professional you hire to protect water quality when they are working on your property.

## #5 Effective Homeowners' Associations (HOA)

- Ask your HOA to reduce nutrient pollution too. ([link](#))
- Educate the community, Pollution Control provides free education. Call us at 239-252-2502.

