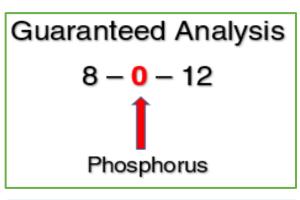
Preventing Algae Blooms: A Checklist for Homeowners

#1 Good Landscape Management

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

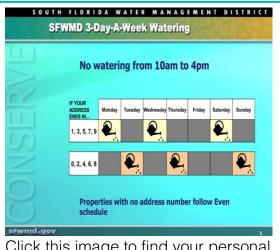
2 Good Irrigation Practices

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





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



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 <u>rain gardens</u>, <u>rain barrels</u>, or landscape buffers. Keep rainwater in your landscape as long as possible.
- □ Encourage <u>low-maintenance</u> buffers around waterbodies to collect nutrients from runoff.
- □ Correct any <u>erosion</u> on your property. Dirt has nutrients too.
- □ Pick up all the <u>pet waste</u> from your yard.
- □ <u>Wash vehicles</u> on the lawn or at a car wash. Keep wash water out of stormdrains.
- <u>Report Pollution</u> and <u>irrigation overspray</u> by dialing 311 within Collier County.

#4 Hiring Good Professionals

- Use this model landscape contract when hiring a landscape or lake contractor.
- □ Hire <u>Green Industry</u> certified landscape professionals.
- □ Tell every professional you hire to protect water quality when they are working on your property.

<u>#5 Effective Homeowners' Associations (HOA)</u>

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



PET WASTE



Buffers around ponds protect ponds from polluted runoff