



LANDSCAPE FERTILIZATION Changes are a coming!

By: Tom Wiley, Bermuda Landscape & Design, Inc.

Here in South Florida, we have been using too much fertilizer and we now experience problems as a result.

Excessive amounts of fertilizer make their way both down into the aquifer and into our waterways. Those that work themselves downward into the aquifer change the composition of that water, creating an evolving problem to those who draw their water from wells. Those fertilizers that run off into our waterways cause things like algae bloom which affects the habitat for our wildlife and impacts the flow of water, sometimes to a point of blockage.

Now the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is forcing all municipalities to conform to new restrictions. Municipalities who fail to conform will not be able to renew their Sewage Discharge Permits when they expire.

So what does this mean to us living in Palm Beach County? Well, at the moment the County has no restrictions in place, meaning it is business as usual. But the word on the street is that most city and county governments are going to be moving toward restrictions.

Once in place, any restrictions including those on frequency and timing of contracted fertilizations will need to be amended on Association contracts with their present landscape maintenance vendors.

To find out more about this subject, you can look at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water>

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