

RULE 5E-1.003(2) LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR URBAN TURF FERTILIZERS

(2) FERTILIZER LABEL REQUIREMENTS FOR URBAN TURF, SPORTS TURF OR LAWNS.

(a) Definitions

1. "Urban Turf" or "Lawns" means non agricultural land planted in closely mowed, managed grasses except golf courses, parks and athletic fields.

2. "Sports Turf" means non agricultural land planted exclusively for golf courses, parks and athletic fields.

3. "No Phosphate Fertilizer" means fertilizer products with phosphate levels below 0.5% intended for established urban turf or lawns.

4. "Low Phosphate Fertilizer" means fertilizer products intended for new or established urban turf or lawns, with phosphate levels equal to or above 0.5% or as provided in paragraph (2)(b).

5. "Starter Fertilizer" means a fertilizer formulated for a one-time application at planting or near that time to encourage root growth and enhance the initial establishment.

6. "Established Urban Turf" means urban turf older than 12 months.

7. "New Urban Turf" means urban turf established less than 12 months.

(b) Fertilizer products labeled for use on sports turf, urban turf or lawns shall be no phosphate or low phosphate and have labeling that meets the restrictions set forth in this rule for the application of nitrogen.

1. No phosphate fertilizers shall not contain more than 0.5% of available phosphate expressed as P₂O₅. The "grade" shall indicate a zero guarantee.

2. Fertilizers labeled as Low phosphate shall have use directions that do not exceed an application rate of 0.25 lbs P₂O₅/1000ft² per application and not to exceed 0.50 lbs P₂O₅/1000ft² per year. Label use directions may be included that allow higher rates if an annual soil sample representative for the site shows the need for a higher application rate.

3. Fertilizers labeled as, or formulated for use as, starter fertilizer shall have use directions that do not exceed an application rate of 1.0 lb of P₂O₅/1,000 ft² and that subsequent applications shall be made with products meeting the definition of Low or No Phosphate fertilizers. The term "Starter Fertilizer" shall be part of the brand name.

4. Fertilizers labeled as urban turf, sports turf, or lawn fertilizer shall have directions for use for nitrogen that:

a. Are consistent with the recommendations in the following table:

Fertilization Guidelines for Established Turfgrass Lawns in Three Regions of Florida

Species	Nitrogen recommendations (lbs N / 1000 ft ² / year)*		
	North	Central	South
Bahia grass	2-3	2-4	2-4
Bermuda grass	3-5	4-6	5-7
Centipede grass	1-2	2-3	2-3
St. Augustine grass	2-4	2-5	4-6
Zoysiagrass	3-5	3-6	4-6

North Florida is north of Ocala. Central Florida is defined as south of Ocala to a line extending from Vero Beach to Tampa. South Florida includes the remaining southern portion of the state.

b. Nitrogen shall not be applied at an application rate greater than 0.7 lbs of readily available nitrogen per 1000 ft² at any one time based on the soluble fraction of formulated fertilizer, with no more than 1 lb total N per 1000 ft² to be applied at any one time and not to exceed the annual nitrogen recommendations in the Fertilization Guidelines for Established Turfgrass Lawns in Three Regions of Florida, set forth herein. Use directions for nitrogen may be included that allow higher rates if an annual tissue sample representative of the site shows the need for a higher application rate.

5. The following language shall appear conspicuously on bags of fertilizer sold at retail: "Do not apply near water, storm drains or drainage ditches. Do not apply if heavy rain is expected. Apply this product only to your lawn/garden, and sweep any product that lands on the driveway, sidewalk, or street, back onto your lawn/garden."

(c) Specialty fertilizers labeled for urban turf or lawns shall have directions for use that include:

1. Application rates for phosphorous shall not exceed 0.25 lbs. P₂O₅/1000 ft² per application and not exceed 0.50 lbs. P₂O₅/1000 ft² per year. Label use directions may be included that allow higher rates if an annual soil sample representative for the site shows the need for a higher application rate.

2. Application rates for nitrogen shall not exceed 0.7 lbs of readily available nitrogen per 1000 ft² at any one time based on the soluble fraction of formulated fertilizer, with no more than 1 lb total N per 1000 ft² to be applied at any one time and not to exceed the annual nitrogen recommendations in the Fertilization Guidelines for Established Turfgrass Lawns in Three Regions of Florida. Use directions for nitrogen may be included that allow higher rates if an annual tissue sample representative of the site shows the need for a higher application rate.

3. Rates shall be expressed in units of weight or volume per unit of area coverage (where application rates are given in volume, the label shall provide sufficient information to calculate the application rates by weight).

4. Rates shall be expressed per 1000 square feet.

5. Maximum coverage area per container or bag shall be displayed prominently on the front of the container or bag. (i.e. This product covers 5000 square feet; This bag feeds 4000 square feet).

(d) Fertilizers labeled for sports turf at golf courses, parks and athletic fields shall:

1. Have directions for use not to exceed rates recommended in the document titled SL191 “Recommendations for N, P, K and Mg for Golf Course and Athletic Field Fertilization Based on Mehlich I Extractant”, dated March 2007, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into this rule. Copies may be obtained from the Soil and Water Science Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 or the following website: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS404>.

2. Have directions for use in accordance with the recommendations in “BMP’s for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses”, published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, dated January 2007. Copies may be downloaded from <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/pubs.htm>.

(e) Fertilizers other than specialty fertilizers labeled for urban turf shall:

1. Have directions for use not to exceed rates recommended in the document titled Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida, June 2002, Florida Green Industries., which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into this rule. Copies may be obtained from http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/docs/nonpoint/BMP_Book.

(f) Existing Stock – Licensees are permitted to sell or distribute products that do not meet the label requirements of the rule for one and one-half years after the effective date of the rule. Products at the retail level on or after the effective date of the rule are permitted to be offered for sale.