

Do I need fertilizer?

- 1 Fertilizer is NOT plant food, but can help plants make their own food by supplying nutrients that otherwise might be lacking in the soil. Use fertilizer only if plants show signs of nutrient deficiency.

What kind should I apply?

- 2 Most fertilizers contain a combination of quick-release and slow-release nutrients. Generally, slow-release fertilizer is better because it supports healthy plant growth while also preventing water pollution.

How much should I apply?

- 3 Follow label instructions**. Protect our waters by using less than 4 pounds of nitrogen and 1/2 pound of phosphorous per 1,000 square feet of lawn/landscape per year (check rates on the back of this card).



Go slow, by half: Charlotte County requires at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen in lawn/landscape fertilizer. **Please note that fertilizer use is restricted across Charlotte County during the June 1 through September 30 rainy season. For more information visit charlottecountyfl.gov (keyword: one)

Understanding the fertilizer label

Fertilizer labels list primary nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, often in a three-number format (e.g., 16• 4• 8). This is the “guaranteed analysis” noting quick vs slow release nitrogen levels, if applicable, and other nutrients/ingredients.



Guaranteed Analysis

N— Total Nitrogen.....16%
 8% Urea nitrogen
 8% Polymer coated urea
 P—Phosphate4%
 K—Soluble potash.....8%

Total N combines quick- and slow-release formulations. Polymer-coated urea is a slow-release form.

Remember: Charlotte County has a year round requirement to use fertilizers with at least 50 % slow-release nitrogen.

Quick reference guide

Use the following table to identify how much slow-release fertilizer needed to deliver 1 lb of N per 1,000 square feet of lawn. *Reduce rates by 1/2 when using quick release N sources.

Pounds of fertilizer (50% slow-release N)							
Lawn (sq/ft)	Percent total nitrogen in fertilizer						
	6	10	12	15	16	23	27
1,000	16.5	10	8.5	6.5	6	4.5	4
1,500	25	15	12.5	10	9.5	6.5	5.5
2,500	41.5	25	21	16.5	15.5	11	9.5
3,000	50	30	25	20	19	13	11

To calculate fertilizer application for other formulations or lawn sizes:
 $(100\% / \text{total N } \%) \times (\text{lawn square feet} / 1,000)$ e.g. for 16-4-8 form, $(100\% / 16\%) \times (5,000 / 1,000) = 31.25$ pounds to deliver 1 lb N per 1,000 sq ft