The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has identified specific water bodies in Bonita Springs as “impaired” as a result of excess nutrients under the Florida Impaired Waters Rule.

- Detrimental effects of nutrient-laden runoff are magnified in a coastal community such as Bonita Springs.

- Surface water and base-flow runoff containing excess nutrients enter into natural and artificial storm water and drainage conveyances and water bodies.

- Nutrient laden runoff fosters plant and algae growth. Recent red tide blooms have heightened community concerns about water quality.

- The quality of our coastal waters is critical to our environment, economy and recreation.

- Even if you do not reside on a waterfront, the land is directly connected to a nearby water body.

- All yard work, especially nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers you apply, may have unintended consequences.

For more information on this subject:

University of Florida Extension:
Lee County Extension
3406 Palm Beach Blvd
Ft. Myers, FL 33916-3736
Phone (239) 533-4327

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods:
Floridayards.org

South Florida Water Management:
1-800-432-2045

For more information contact:
Lee County: 239-533-7503
Collier County: 239-417-6310 ext 231

Code Enforcement
27300 Old 41 Rd
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
TIMING OF APPLICATION

No one shall apply nitrogen or phosphorus to Turf or Landscape Plants during rainy season June 1st through September 30th.

FERTILIZER CONTENT AND APPLICATION RATE

No phosphorus fertilizer shall be applied to turf or plants within Bonita Springs at application rates which exceed .25 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. per application or .50 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.

Fertilizers applied shall contain no less than 50% Slow Release Nitrogen

No more than 4 lbs of nitrogen per 1000 ft per calendar year.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

Fertilizer released on an impervious surface must be immediately contained.

BUFFER ZONES

No fertilizer shall be applied in or within 10 feet from the top bank of any water body, seawall or wetlands.

MODE OF APPLICATION

Spreader deflector shields are required when fertilizing by use of any broadcast or rotary spreaders.

LOW MAINTENANCE ZONES

A voluntary 6 foot low maintenance zone is strongly recommended from any pond, stream, water course, lake, wetland or seawall. A swale or berm system is recommended for installation at the landward edge of this low maintenance zone to capture and filter runoff.

GRASS CLIPPINGS

No mowed or cut vegetative material shall be deposited or left remaining in the zone or deposited in the water.

EXEMPTIONS

Newly established plantings less that 60 days.

Vegetable gardens not within 15 ft. of any water body or wetland.

Organic composts.

Bona fide agriculture.

Golf courses.

CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS

ORDINANCE 08-23