

# Rainy Blues make Algae Blooms

Skip the fertilizer this summer & keep algae blooms from mucking up your day!  
Check out these tips to make your yard clean-water friendly.



## Sanibel homeowners, do you know?

### Sanibel has a Blackout Period, July 1-September 30.

- Fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus **cannot be applied during rainy season (July 1 – September 30).**
- Fertilizers cannot be applied **within 25 feet of a body of water.**
- Fertilizers cannot be applied to **impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways, and sidewalks.**
- Fertilizers **cannot be applied to stormwater conveyance systems.**

**Not applying fertilizers will save you money and will protect your waterways!**



Snowy Egret forages in a cyanobacteria bloom caused by fertilizer runoff

### Algae blooms are stimulated by excess nutrients

Studies conducted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the FL Department of Environmental Protection have determined that algae blooms, such as cyanobacteria blooms (blue-green algae), can result from excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) of fertilizer runoff.

**By following Sanibel's fertilizer ordinance, you can help reduce the amount of "food" available to the algae and the likelihood of experiencing an algae bloom.**

FERTILIZER ORDINANCES



PROTECT WATERWAYS

(over)

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## Your Responsibility as a Sanibel Homeowner:

### Homeowners should know what is being applied to their yards.

- When fertilizers are applied incorrectly, excess nutrients wash off lawns and into neighboring water bodies causing excessive algae growth, stressing aquatic insects, fish, amphibians, and other wildlife.
- All fertilizer applicators who work on Sanibel are required to attend a Vegetation Competency course as well as pass a Fertilizer Endorsement exam.
- Homeowners should check to make sure their landscaper or fertilizer applicators are licensed by the city.
- Ask to see your landscaper's or fertilizer applicator's valid Fertilizer Endorsement card.
- At least one Fertilizer can holder is required to be on-site when applying fertilizer.
- Be aware of all activities occurring on your yard.
- Report any suspicious activities to City Code Enforcement at 239-472-4136.

## For more information:

- To learn more about Sanibel's Fertilizer ordinance, please visit the City's website at <http://www.mysanibel.com/Departments/Natural-Resources/Protecting-Our-Water-Quality/Sanibel-H2O-Matters/Sanibel-s-Fertilizer-Information>
- To learn more about the Sanibel Communities for Clean Water Program, please visit <https://sanibelcleanwater.org/>
- For additional water quality information please visit Sanibel H2O Matters at <http://www.mysanibel.com/Departments/Natural-Resources/Protecting-Our-Water-Quality/Sanibel-H2O-Matters>

For additional information, contact the City of Sanibel  
Department of Natural Resources at 239-462-3700



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