

By Senator Pruitt

28-01385-09

20091490__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to fertilizer application; providing
3 definitions; limiting the amount of fertilizer
4 containing phosphorus that may be applied to urban
5 turf on or after a certain date; providing an
6 effective date.

7
8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9
10 Section 1. Urban turf fertilizers.-

11 (1) As used in this section, the term:

12 (a) "No-phosphate fertilizer" or "no-phosphorus fertilizer"
13 means fertilizer that contains less than 0.5 percent phosphate
14 by weight.

15 (b) "Urban turf" means noncropland planted, mowed, and
16 managed grasses, including, but not limited to, residential
17 lawns; turf on commercial property; filter strips; turf on
18 property owned by federal, state, or local governments and other
19 public lands, including roadways, roadsides, parks, campsites,
20 recreation areas, school grounds, and other public grounds. The
21 term does not include pastures, hay production and grazing land,
22 turf grown on sod farms, or any other form of agricultural
23 production; golf courses or sports turf fields; or garden
24 fruits, flowers, or vegetables.

25 (c) "Soil test" means a test performed on soil planted or
26 sodded, or that will be planted or sodded, by a laboratory
27 approved by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,
28 and performed within the last 2 years to indicate if the level
29 of available phosphorus in the soil is sufficient to support

28-01385-09

20091490__

30 healthy turf growth.

31 (d) "Tissue test" means a test performed on plant tissue
32 growing in the soil planted or sodded, or that will be planted
33 or sodded, by a laboratory approved by the Department of
34 Agriculture and Consumer Services, and performed within the last
35 2 years to indicate if the level of available phosphorus in the
36 soil is sufficient to support healthy turf.

37 (2) Other than no-phosphate and no-phosphorus fertilizers,
38 fertilizer containing phosphorus may not be applied to urban
39 turf anywhere in this state on or after July 1, 2011, unless a
40 soil or tissue test that is conducted pursuant to a method
41 approved by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
42 indicates:

43 (a) For turf that is being initially established by seed or
44 sod, the level of available phosphorus is insufficient to
45 establish new turf growth and a root system. However, during the
46 first year, only a one-time application of up to 1 pound of
47 phosphate per 1,000 square feet of area may be applied.

48 (b) For established turf, the level of available phosphorus
49 is insufficient to support healthy turf growth. However, no more
50 than 0.25 pound of phosphate per 1,000 square feet of area per
51 each application may be applied, not to exceed 0.5 pound of
52 phosphate per 1,000 square feet of area per year.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.