

PROPER FERTILIZER USE

KNOW YOUR NUTRIENTS



MIAMI WATERKEEPER®

MIAMI BEACH

Fertilizer: Good for your plants; dangerous for our water

Fertilizer is often over-used in landscaping. Nutrients in fertilizers can run off into waterways and cause algae blooms. Algae blooms are a problem because they clog our waterways, turn the water green, smell bad, can kill fish and wildlife, and can also harm people.

THE DOS AND DON'TS



SOURCE

Use the **correct fertilizer mix** for your lawn



MIX

Use **50% Slow Release Nitrogen** and **0% Phosphorus** in your fertilizer mix (it may say Slow Release on your bag)



TIME

Don't fertilize your lawn during the **Blackout Period** (June – September) or **before a heavy rainfall**



PLACE

Fertilize at least **15ft away** from waterbodies. Keep fertilizer only on your lawn

THE NUMBERS

The numbers on fertilizer bags indicate the amount of **Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K)**



NITROGEN

There is **8%** Nitrogen in this bag



PHOSPHORUS

There is **0%** Phosphorus in this bag



POTASSIUM

There is **24%** Potassium in this bag



This ordinance allows for a maximum of **4 pounds of Nitrogen per 1000 sq ft**.

This bag has a nutrient content of 8-0-24

To determine the pounds of Nitrogen per bag, we simply multiply!

$$\text{Available Nitrogen} \times \text{Bag Weight} = \text{Pounds of Nitrogen}$$

$$.08 \text{ Nitrogen} \times 50 \text{ pounds} = 4 \text{ Pounds of Nitrogen per bag}$$

This bag meets the requirements!

THE RATE

Must be at least **50% slow release** to meet requirements. % slow release = (available nitrogen / total nitrogen) x 100



GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Total Nitrogen (N).....	12.00%
12.0% Urea Nitrogen (N)*	
Soluble Potash (K ₂ O).....	8.00%
Sulfur (S).....	4.00%
4.0% Combine Sulfur (S)	
Iron (Fe).....	2.00%
0.2% Water Soluble Iron (Fe)	
Manganese (Mn).....	1.00%
0.11% Water Soluble Manganese (Mn)	

Derived from: Polymer-coated urea, urea, ammonium, sulfate, potassium chloride, iron sulfate, manganese sulfate

*6.00% slowly available nitrogen from polymer coated urea.

6

12

$$\frac{6}{12} \times 100 = 50\% \text{ SLOW RELEASE}$$

This bag meets the requirements!

The example shown here demonstrates the 4 lbs N that should be used per 1000 sq ft in one whole year. As fertilizers are formulated differently depending on the plant being fertilized, and the area being fertilized may not be exactly 1000 sq ft, your calculations will vary. Be sure to measure the area you wish to fertilize, and pay close attention to the number of times in a year that you wish to fertilize, along with the numbers on the bag of fertilizer you plan to use.