

Council Discusses Progress of Consumer Fertilizer Task Force

The Sanibel City Council discussed the status of the State Consumer Fertilizer Task Force at the Council's Nov. 20 meeting. One Task Force recommendation would encourage local governments to enact Fertilizer Ordinances that are tailored to meet each particular community's needs. Stringency of the Ordinance would vary depending upon the community.

The Task Force would suggest minimum rules for fertilizer application. Already the Cities of Sanibel, Sarasota and North Port and Sarasota County have passed Fertilizer Control Ordinances.

In addition, the Fertilizer Industry has expressed that it may be willing to sell fertilizer in Florida with zero phosphorus content. Much of Florida's soil is rich in phosphorus and the nutrient often doesn't need to be added to lawns and landscapes. Sanibel's Ordinance limits phosphorus content to 2% or less.

Other recommendations from the Task Force:

- <p>*Improve the cautionary statement on fertilizer bags regarding fertilizer misapplication
- *Require deflector shields on all broadcast spreaders sold in Florida and
- *Provide a fee on fertilizer to be used for education and pollution prevention

The City of Sanibel continues to encourage all municipalities to enact their own effective fertilizer control ordinances.