

FERTILIZER APPLICATION PRACTICES IN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS

In a recent study conducted by the UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education (PIE Center), Florida residents were asked about their homeowners associations' involvement in managing landscape practices and residential fertilizer application.

WHAT IS A HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION?

A homeowners association (HOA) is an organization within a neighborhood or community that creates and enforces rules for residents and their properties. HOAs often have policies in place to encourage residents to maintain their lawns, with incentives or penalties as motivation.

LANDSCAPING PRACTICES IN HOAs

Out of the 929 respondents, 447 (48.1%) indicated they are part of a homeowners association. This group was further questioned to assess their HOA's involvement in landscaping and fertilizer practices.



Nearly half of all respondents are part of a homeowners association.

Most respondents indicated their HOA has policies related to landscaping (73.4%) and imposes penalties for the appearance of residential landscapes (68.5%).



HOAs have policies and penalties associated with the appearance of residents' landscapes.



Many residents are unaware of their HOA's fertilizer application schedule.

HOA INVOLVEMENT

Roughly half of respondents (50.6%) indicated their HOA manages homeowners' landscapes. Landscape management may include mowing, hedge and tree trimming, pest control and fertilizer application. This group of 226 individuals was further questioned on HOA's fertilizer application practices as part of respondents' landscaping services.

Approximately 41% (184 respondents) indicated their HOA hires a third party to apply fertilizer to residential landscapes. One-third (31%) of respondents were unaware of the HOA contracted company's fertilizer application schedule.



Data were collected between March 7 and March 26, 2024, by the UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education. This survey was conducted within Florida and had 1,173 total respondents, with 929 valid completed surveys used during analysis. Participants were required to be a Florida resident, over the age of 18, and have a lawn that is fertilized.