

WHAT DO FLORIDIANS THINK ABOUT FERTILIZER ORDINANCES?



In a recent study conducted by the UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (PIE Center), Florida residents were asked about their awareness of and adherence to residential fertilizer ordinances.

RESIDENTIAL FERTILIZER ORDINANCES IN FLORIDA

Residential fertilizer ordinances are local regulations designed to manage and control the use of fertilizers in residential areas to protect the environment and public health. More than 100 Florida counties and municipalities have ordinances regulating the types of fertilizer used and application time frames. In the survey, Floridians were questioned on their awareness of and adherence to residential fertilizer ordinances.

ORDINANCE AWARENESS

Survey respondents were asked if they were aware of a fertilizer ordinance in their area; the majority (60.6%) were unsure. This knowledge gap is notable, as all respondents indicated that they fertilize their lawns.



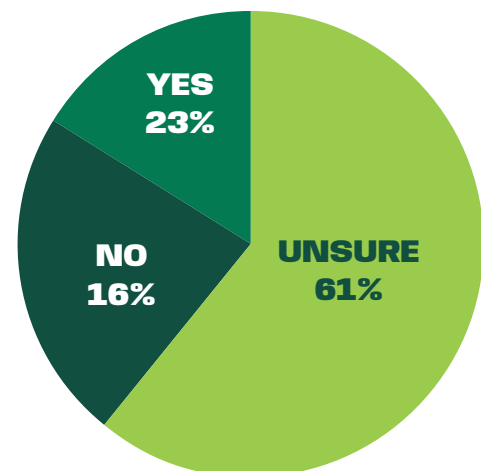
Many Floridians are unsure if residential fertilizer ordinances apply to their properties.

Those who indicated they were not aware of a fertilizer ordinance or were unsure (716 respondents) were then asked whether they would support the future adoption of a residential fertilizer ordinance. Respondents were split between supporting future adoption (41.3%) and being unsure (42.6%) if they would support the future adoption of a fertilizer ordinance, with 16.1% indicating they would not support future ordinances.

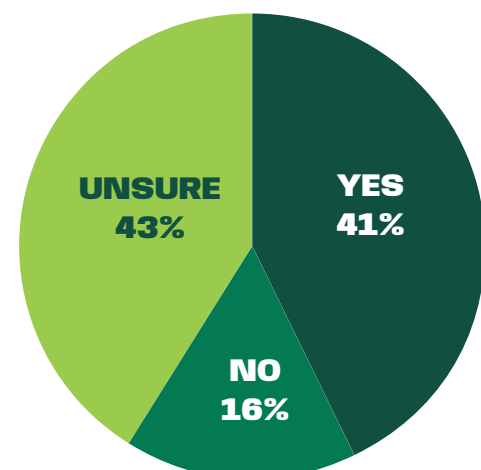


Many Floridians are unsure if they would support the future adoption of a fertilizer ordinance.

AWARENESS OF RESIDENTIAL FERTILIZER ORDINANCE



SUPPORT OF FUTURE FERTILIZER ORDINANCE ADOPTION



ORDINANCE ADHERENCE

Respondents were provided with several statements on fertilizer ordinances and were asked to indicate their level of agreement. Choices “agree” and “strongly agree” are categorized as “agree,” and choices “disagree” and “strongly disagree” are categorized as “disagree.”

Floridians agree that “Following fertilizer ordinances helps the environment.” (84.5%), “Community awareness and adherence to fertilizer ordinances will help the environment.” (82.1%). A majority reported that they are familiar with (77.0%) and adhere to local fertilizer ordinances (76.5%).

FOLLOWING FERTILIZER ORDINANCES HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT

AGREE - 84.5%

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ADHERENCE TO FERTILIZER ORDINANCES WILL HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

AGREE - 83.5%

FERTILIZER ORDINANCES HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

AGREE - 82.1%

I AM FAMILIAR WITH MY LOCAL FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

AGREE - 77.0%

I ADHERE TO MY LOCAL FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

AGREE - 76.5%



Floridians support the enforcement of fertilizer ordinances.

Floridians support the enforcement of fertilizer ordinances, with 77.9% in agreement. Many respondents (75.0%) indicated it is the fertilizer retailers' responsibility to inform and educate the public on residential fertilizer ordinances. Similarly, 72.8% of respondents indicated that fertilizer ordinance education is the governments' responsibility.



75% OF FLORIDIANS THINK THAT FERTILIZER RETAILERS SHOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ON FERTILIZER ORDINANCES.

These findings suggest Floridians' primary motivation for following and supporting residential fertilizer ordinances is the perceived benefit to the environment and sustainability. Despite lacking awareness, most respondents had positive views on residential fertilizer ordinances and future implementation.



Floridians believe community adherences to fertilizer ordinances benefit the environment.

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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, within 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.