

# Be Floridian Now: Yard Maintenance Pledge

Since no one we know likes to fish, swim or relax in waters filled with slimy, fish-killing algae, we are committed to yard maintenance practices that help keep our lakes, bays and oceans clean and fun.

As our yard service provider, please take the pledge below. What you do is key to the quality of our waters. That means the future of fun (and the region's property values) is in your hands.

## I Pledge to Protect the Indian River Lagoon's Fun:

- All my employees who apply fertilizer are certified in (and follow) the Best Management Practices for the Green Industries and carry a GIBMP Training Certification Card.
- My company will not apply fertilizer from June 1 to September 30, in compliance with the summer ban.
- From October 1 to May 31, my company will only apply fertilizer when necessary – usually just once in spring and once in fall.
- My company will use 50% slow-release nitrogen in any granular fertilizer we do apply.
- My company will use a deflector shield to keep fertilizer only where it is needed.
- If fertilizer is accidentally spilled on a driveway, sidewalk or other impermeable surface, we will sweep it up to prevent it from washing into the nearest pond, river or bay.
- My company will blow all grass clippings back into the landscape – not into the street or storm drain, where they wash into waterways and become algae food. We will never blow clippings into a pond, canal or other water body.
- If my company is responsible for adding or replacing plants or foliage, we will choose native or Florida-friendly varieties that need less water, fertilizer and overall maintenance.
- If my company is responsible for adding or replacing plants or foliage, we will follow Right Plant, Right Place principals as detailed by [FloridaYards.org](http://FloridaYards.org).
- I pledge to enjoy the spectacular waters around the Indian River Lagoon region and take pride in the part my company plays in maintaining their beauty.

