



Photo credit: Dr. Gerry Pinto

Aerial view of a toxic St. Johns River algae bloom caused, in part, by fertilizers in stormwater runoff.

**Algae** blooms are **caused by** too many nutrients. One source of nutrients is the **fertilizers** that **enter** our **river** through storm drains and from runoff. Algae blooms, pesticides and herbicides can **harm us and our river.**



For more information, or to become a member, visit [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org) or call 904.256.7591.

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RIVER FRIENDLY

ST. JOHNS RIVERKEEPER®



**DO NOT  
FEED THE  
ALGAE**



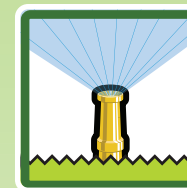
## SLOW IT DOWN

Use only slow-release, low-phosphorous fertilizers, or have your lawn service do so. Use organic fertilizers, if possible. Avoid fertilizers that contain chemical weed killers. Remember, less is best. Use no more than necessary. And always try to avoid applying fertilizers before a heavy rain.



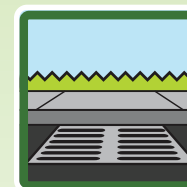
## PUT IT TO BED

Create beds with low-maintenance plants next to streets, driveways and waterways to help prevent runoff and reduce lawn size. Consider using native plants. Use an organic mulch (not cypress) around plants to retain moisture and slow runoff.



## TWICE IS NICE

Make your grass stronger by watering no more than twice a week, and only if necessary. Water early in the morning and adjust sprinklers to only water your grass, not streets and driveways.



## THE DRAIN IS FOR RAIN

Never sweep clippings or debris down the storm drain. Drains eventually lead to the river. Mow high and keep your blade sharp. Never cut off more than one third of the grass blade. This will result in a healthier lawn and cut down on the amount of fertilizers and water you need to use.